



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

July 29, 2022

Attorney General Josh Stein
North Carolina Department of Justice
114 West Edenton Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

Attorney General Stein:

We were troubled to see several attacks on Crisis Pregnancy Centers across the country.¹ We were especially troubled to learn of the attack on Mountain Area Pregnancy Services in Asheville.² The attackers scrawled in red graffiti across the clinic “if abortions aren’t safe neither are you!” Crisis Pregnancy Centers exist to give women support and resources during their pregnancy. These organizations provide critical counseling services, parenting classes, and vital supplies such as diapers and formula. This noble work makes the attacks and threats of violence against these organizations all the more disturbing and unacceptable.

These despicable acts violate both North Carolina law and federal law. Specifically, the Freedom of Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act of 1994³ protects clinics that support pregnant women and decline to perform abortions.⁴ This law empowers state Attorneys General such as yourself with the authority to seek civil relief for conduct that violates the FACE Act.⁵ Considering the seriousness of these crimes, law enforcement cannot play favorites when it comes to pursuing justice. Failure to act will send a message that crimes against Crisis Pregnancy Centers are silently condoned and will not be met with the consequences they rightly deserve.

¹ Caroline Downey, *Pro-Abortion Terrorists Firebomb Buffalo Pro-Life Pregnancy Center*, NATIONAL REVIEW (June 7, 2022), <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/pro-abortion-terrorists-firebomb-buffalo-pro-life-pregnancy-center/>.

² Bethany Fowler, *Pregnancy Center Vandalized in Asheville*, QUEEN CITY NEWS FOX 46 (June 4, 2022), <https://www.fox46.com/news/u-s/north-carolina/pregnancy-center-vandalized-in-asheville/>.

³ 18 U.S.C. § 248.

⁴ *See, e.g., Terry v. Reno*, 101 F.3d 1412, 1419 (D.C. Cir. 1996) (“The Access Act thus does not play favorites: it protects from violent or obstructive activity not only abortion clinics, but facilities providing pre-pregnancy and pregnancy counseling services, as well as facilities counseling alternatives to abortion.”); S. Rept. No. 103-117, at 40 (1993) (Senate Judiciary Committee report); H. Rept. No. 103-488, at 13 (1994) (Conference Committee report).

⁵ 18 U.S.C. § 248(c)(3).

An anti-life group known as “Jane’s Revenge” has claimed responsibility for numerous attacks against Crisis Pregnancy Centers, including the attack against Mountain Area Pregnancy Services.⁶ We urge you to use every resource at your disposal—both civil and criminal—to protect Crisis Pregnancy Centers, bring the perpetrators of these attacks to justice, and prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law.

These heinous acts require the full attention and resources of law enforcement at both the state and federal level. Last month, 20 members of the House sent a separate letter, reminding Attorney General Merrick Garland of his authority and responsibility to defend Crisis Pregnancy Centers. We hope you will also take action to bring justice for Crisis Pregnancy Centers that have been victimized. We request you provide us with an update no later than August 15, 2022, on what steps your office has taken to ensure that women across our state can access the services provided by Crisis Pregnancy Centers without fear of violence.

Sincerely,



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress

⁶ David Larson, *Terrorist Group ‘Jane’s Revenge’ Claims Credit for Attack on Asheville Pro-life Center*, CAROLINA JOURNAL (June 18, 2022), <https://www.carolinajournal.com/terrorist-group-janes-revenge-claims-credit-for-attack-on-asheville-pro-life-center/>.