

The *Care Net New London* Case

Case Name: *Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center of Southeastern Connecticut v. Tong*

Status: Case filed on October 12, 2021

Significance: Whether pro-life pregnancy centers can freely serve women and offer the support they need without fear of unjust government punishment.



Background: On July 1, 2021, Connecticut’s Public Act No. 21-17 [was enacted](#), targeting organizations like Care Net New London. Care Net New London is a private, faith-based organization offering free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, options counseling, adoption referrals, parenting classes, support groups, and material resources like baby clothes, diapers, cribs, and car seats to women in the greater New London area. This new law gives the state attorney general the authority to accuse Care Net New London of engaging in “deceptive advertising” because it provides life-affirming help without providing or referring for abortions. The attorney general can then force the center to adopt “corrective advertising” or face fines and lawsuits. The law excludes other pregnancy-related centers that only offer “limited services,” such as abortion facilities that do not offer prenatal ultrasounds or obstetric services. Connecticut is forcing Care Net New London to make an impossible choice: violate the law or censor their messages about the pregnancy help they provide.

Key Points

- The government has no business steering women away from life-affirming help.
- Connecticut isn’t interested in limiting “deceptive” speech; it has every intention of interfering with pro-life views and coercing certain groups to speak certain messages.
- We can disagree about abortion and still allow each other to speak.

Key Facts

- Care Net New London is censored from speaking freely due to its decision to not refer for abortions or dispense abortifacient drugs.
- The law is applied *only* to facilities that provide services for pregnant women and do not perform or refer for abortions.
- The law does more than prevent a religious ministry from speaking a specific message; it also coerces them to speak messages about abortion that go against their very mission.

The Bottom Line: Pregnancy centers should be free to serve women and offer the support they need without fear of unjust government punishment.