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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

March 30, 2022

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Pro-Life Mississippi Celebrates Groundbreaking Legislation

Pro-Life Mississippi celebrates passage of The Pregnancy Resource Act, groundbreaking legislation to help women choose life in difficult circumstances. The Pregnancy Resource Act will enable Mississippi pregnancy centers to expand services to families all across Mississippi. The Act provides a \$3.5 million tax credit to help Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRC) meet the needs of their communities. The bill (HB 1685) was sponsored by Speaker of the House Philip Gunn.

“Pregnancy Resource Centers serve thousands of families in Mississippi, offering hundreds of thousands of dollars in high-quality medical care to low-income women,” said Laura Knight, president of Pro-Life Mississippi (PLM). “These centers receive no government funding. They are nonprofits that depend on donations from individuals and business owners. This tax credit will encourage local businesses to invest in the work of Mississippi pregnancy centers.”

HB 1685 creates a \$3.5 million annual business tax credit for donations to PRCs. It is a dollar-for-dollar credit set at 50 percent of the taxpayer’s state income tax liability. According to the National Council of Nonprofits, tax incentives for charitable giving generate as much as a 5 to 1 return. Thus, the revenue offset by this program could produce as much as \$17.5 million in donations and services to women and children. Mississippi would be the first state in the country to establish such a tax credit.

“As a nurse, I know Mississippi’s Pregnancy Resource Centers are standing in the gap to help women with crisis pregnancy care: ultrasounds, baby and household supplies, even

rental assistance,” said Knight. “This program will enable our pregnancy centers to provide millions of dollars in health care and concrete assistance to vulnerable mothers and children. It is precisely the kind of investment we need as we prepare for the Supreme Court’s *Dobbs* decision.”

“Pro-Life Mississippi is proud to have worked with Mississippi’s Pregnancy Resource Centers to get this legislation passed,” continued Knight. “Our chapter leaders also spread the word in their communities. We are so thankful to Speaker Philip Gunn for sponsoring this bill and to the Mississippi Senate for increasing the tax credit to \$3.5 million. We are looking forward to Gov. Tate Reeves signing this innovative approach to supporting PRCs. Mississippi is again leading the way in protecting women and children with this legislation.”

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