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Subject: SISTA CIRCLES WRITTEN TESTIMONY 04/21 7PM
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SISTA CIRCLES WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Good afternoon, Pres. Hucker, Vice-Pres, Glass, and member of the Council.

My name is Sherlene Lucas and I am here to speak about my organization, Sista Circles. Sista Circles is a group I established to address the needs of pregnant women who have nowhere to turn. I started Sista Circle to give hope and support to those who have neither, nor offer them a support system.

I am here to ask for your support in helping in funding this project and with in-kind services for me to further our goals.

First, I would like to tell you the stories of two women who needed and provided that support.

Story #1

Getting the idea across there was a young woman I knew through my daughter that was sleeping on a park bench when she was pregnant because she had nowhere to go, and the shelters were full during the winter months. I was able to connect with a friend of mine that was able to secure a safe spot for her. Nonetheless as time went by, she had other issues as well that she did not maintain the program that would have been a secured program for her and her siblings. The individual ended up running from one place to another so that finally her siblings were taken from her and had to be raised by the grandmother.

Story #2

My second story was there was a father whereas he found out his daughter was pregnant late in the game, and he tried to assist until she gave birth at his residence. Because his daughter was strung out on drugs still while she was in the hospital being treated for the birth that her daughter was taken and put in the system. Her dad wanted so very much to raise his granddaughter and was trying to prepare and spoke about retiring that he was not given the opportunity for some reason. This story I know now has a happy conclusion because I was told recently that he now has visiting privileges to visit his grandchild and his daughter has entered a program to be able to now work towards getting her child.

My goal is to be able to provide women such as those with the tools to address those needs during their pregnancy. I plan to do that by enlisting a group of people capable of listening to their needs, supporting them, and helping them address those needs. I want to be able to advocate for them as a group.

Sista Circles will offer them that support through partnerships that will help

through:

- Healthy nutrition
- Regular medical exams
- Exercise
- Food security
- Job opportunities
- Dressing to impress
- Education and training
- Computer training
- Financing
- and Clothing.

Thank you for allowing me to introduce Sista Circles to you. I look forward to your support.