

For Immediate Release  
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Contact: Grayson Dempsey  
Phone: 503.317.6866  
Email: grayson@yourbackline.org

### **Backline Announces Suspension of International Talk Line Services**

(Portland, OR) Backline - a nonprofit organization promoting conversation around all aspects of pregnancy, parenting, abortion and adoption – regretfully announced today that it will suspend services of its international toll-free Talk Line.

Backline opened its Talk Line on November 1, 2004, with just five Volunteer Talk Line Advocates. Today, a group of more than thirty volunteers receives approximately 7,000 calls per year from women and their loved ones in all fifty states and Canada. The service is the only one of its kind in North America, a place where women can obtain resources and discuss the emotional aspects of parenting, abortion and adoption while they are in the process of making a decision as well as postpartum, post-placement and post-abortion. While Backline is a pro-choice organization, callers to the Talk Line represent all political parties, religious beliefs, and views on abortion. Talk Line Advocates go through forty hours of initial training in client-centered counseling skills and reproductive health information before joining the line.

In 2009, calls to the Talk Line increased by nearly twelve times the volume in 2008. As a small grassroots organization funded almost entirely through individual donations and fee-for-service training programs, Backline's Board of Directors worked tirelessly to build an infrastructure that could support this incredible demand but were ultimately unable to raise the funds needed to sustain the Talk Line service. It is unclear at this time how long the suspension will last, but Backline will continue to seek funding and develop strategies to re-open the Talk Line as soon as possible.

"We recognize that this is an incredible loss to women and their loved ones everywhere," states Grayson Dempsey, Backline's Founder and President. "The outpouring of support from communities across the nation has been tremendous, and we are heartbroken to have made this difficult decision. We hope that our allies will join us in doing everything we can to restore this much-needed service and continue to promote connection, conversation and support around all aspects of pregnancy, parenting, abortion and adoption."

During the time that the Talk Line is closed, Backline will work to achieve its mission through professional trainings services, community education, coalition building and social media. Those in need of immediate support can find referrals online at [www.yourbackline.org](http://www.yourbackline.org).

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