

August 9, 2022

California State Legislature
1315 10th St
Sacramento, CA 94249



Re: Support: Reproductive Rights Legislation

Dear Legislators:

John Baackes
Chief Executive Officer

L.A. Care Health Plan - the nation's largest public plan with more than 2.7 million Medi-Cal, Cal MediConnect (Dual Eligibles), PASC- SEIU Homecare Workers, and Covered California enrollees - writes in support of reproductive rights legislation that promotes the protection of a basic human right and essential healthcare.

L.A. Care is deeply disturbed by the recent Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade, which for nearly 50 years guaranteed the right to an abortion in the United States. On July 28, 2022, L.A. Care's Board of Governors approved a resolution supporting reproductive rights. The resolution embodies the health plan's resolve to advocate for codifying Roe v. Wade and to support reproductive rights legislation in California and across the nation. L.A. Care is committed to advancing health equity, ensuring everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. Reproductive rights, including the right to access an abortion, are grounded in human rights, and abortion and contraception are crucial health care.

California has led the way in protecting the right to choose, ensuring that every individual possesses a fundamental right to privacy with respect to personal reproductive decisions. The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision increases the likelihood that a majority of states will have laws that criminalize access to abortion services in place by the start of 2023. California is taking steps to ensure that access to abortion services is not interrupted or restricted in this state.

L.A. Care strongly advocates for and supports efforts to protect the right to contraception and abortion. We applaud efforts to retain, uphold and expand California's tradition of protecting statewide access to abortion services and contraception. L.A. Care strongly supports the following legislation:

AB 1242: Protects California healthcare providers from criminal liability in another state for actions that take place in this state. While existing law would allow a governor to refuse to extradite a healthcare provider for performing abortion services in California, there is a concern that a healthcare worker could be arrested on an out-of-state warrant if they were to come into contact with law enforcement. The bill prohibits a peace officer from arresting a person for performing or aiding in the performance of an abortion or for obtaining an abortion if it falls within the protections of the Reproductive Privacy Act.

AB 2091: Enhances privacy protections for medical records related to abortion care against disclosures to law enforcement and out-of-state third parties seeking to enforce hostile abortion bans in other states.

AB 2134: Provides grant funding to safety net providers of abortion and contraception services



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AB 2320: Requires the California Health and Human Services agency to establish a pilot program to direct funds to primary care clinics that provide reproductive health care services in five counties that agree to participate.

AB 2586: Requires the California Department of Public Health to convene a working group to examine the root causes of reproductive health and sexual health inequities in the state. Also, the bill establishes the California Reproductive Justice and Freedom Fund for a three-year grant program for funding to be used to implement a program or fund an existing program that provides and promotes medically accurate, comprehensive reproductive and sexual health education.

AB 2626: Prevents licensing boards from suspending or revoking the certificate of a physician, nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, or a physician assistant who performs an abortion in accordance with the provisions of their practice act and the Reproductive Privacy Act.

SB 1142: Establishes a first-of-its-kind fund composed of state and philanthropic dollars that will increase funding for abortion services for low-income Californians and for out-of-state residents who may come here for an abortion with “The Abortion Support Fund”. Additionally, the landmark bill would also create a comprehensive webpage, called the “Abortion Information Webpage” for those seeking reproductive services in California, regardless of where they live, to obtain information about coverage or financial support for care, and logistical assistance and resources for travel, lodging, or other needs.

SB 1245: Establishes a reproductive health pilot project in L.A. County, the Los Angeles County Abortion Access Safe Haven Pilot Program, to support innovative approaches and patient-centered collaborations to safeguard patient access to abortions, regardless of residency.

The U.S. Supreme Court has overturned a fundamental right. Abortion restrictions and bans fall hardest on people who already face discriminatory obstacles to health care: people of color, people with disabilities, people in rural areas, young people, immigrants, and those having a tough time making ends meet. Every person, no matter where they live, how much money they make, or what they look like, should have the freedom to make their own personal health care decisions.

Sincerely,



Chief Executive Officer



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