

January 5, 2018

The Honorable Senator Benjamin Allen
Chairman, Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 5072
Sacramento, CA 95418



Re: SB 320 Oppose

Dear Chairman Allen, Committee Members, and staff:

Concerned Women for America (CWA) of California is opposed to SB 320. The Senate Education Committee will soon be asked to vote on this bill, and because we are both pro-life and pro-woman, we ask for your “NO” vote. This bill provides the chemical abortion pill to end human life for distribution in all UC/CSU campus health centers for women up to 10 weeks of pregnancy. We believe that life starts at conception and that this is an inappropriate and potentially dangerous procedure for campus health centers to offer to students. Is this truly part of the mission of our state institutions of higher education?

While it appears the bill suggests that campus clinics will be equipped with ultrasound machines to detect correct gestation and location of the pregnancy, it does not explicitly make this a requirement. Furthermore, there must be a means to provide surgical procedures for emergency care related to taking this chemical abortion pill even if ultrasounds are provided.

We are concerned that providing early medication abortions, even assuming the condition of ultrasound imaging, could be detrimental to young women’s health. Side effects are likely to cause harm and be unsafe for the student undergoing this treatment. Physical side effects of Mifeprex, a common abortion pill, include heavy vaginal bleeding (which could require immediate surgical attention to stop the bleeding), cramping, nausea, fever/chills, vomiting, headache, and dizziness. Serious injuries, even deaths, have been reported. Emotional side effects include the trauma of witnessing the very early birth of a tiny dead baby in the student’s dorm room or apartment. This disturbing experience can be very damaging to her for years to come. Again, is this part of the mission higher education?

While the amended bill does not specifically charge taxpayers with the cost of implementing the medication abortion practice on college campuses, there is nothing to exclude fungible taxpayer funds from being used. Californians would certainly bear the cost of any wrongful injury or death lawsuits brought against the schools.

In addition, this harmful bill would put pro-life employees in a position contrary to their closely-held beliefs. There are no explicit allowances to provide rights of conscience in SB 320.

For these reasons, CWA of California respectfully opposes SB 320. Please vote NO on SB 320.

Concerned Women for America is the nation’s largest public policy women’s organization with hundreds of thousands of members across the nation and 20,000 members in California. If you have any questions regarding CWA or our concerns in this matter, please contact me at the number below.

Sincerely,

Marlo Tucker
State Director

Concerned Women for America for California

1700 Aviara Pkwy #130113 • Carlsbad, CA 92011 • (760) 207-8518 • director@california.cwfa.org • ca.cwfa.org