



Right to Life League
1208 N. Lake Ave, Ste. 207
Pasadena, CA 91104

April 12, 2022

Assemblymember Jim Wood, Chair
Assembly Health Committee
1020 North Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Letter in Opposition to AB 1940 Unless Amended

Dear Chairman Wood and Members of the Assembly Health Committee,

On behalf of the Right to Life League, and tens of thousands of pro-life Californians, I urge you to vote NO on AB 1940. California has never provided direct state funding for school-based health centers. We are absolutely in favor of providing healthcare for children, especially those in rural and underserved areas. Providing such health support through schools makes good sense.

Yet, in its effort to extend funding and health services, the bill's author creates a new program called the "School-Based Health Center Support Program." The draft language is concerning.

The bill amends existing law by replacing the words "Public School Health Center" with the words "School-Based Health Center." The term "school-based" is broadly defined to encompass "student-focused health centers or clinics...located at or near schools" – and is not limited to public schools. As drafted, AB 1940 vastly expands the reach of the Departments of Health and Safety and Education to impact private schools, effectively providing state-funded "school-based health centers" on or next to private school campuses as well.

The bill modifies aspects of the Health and Safety Code to authorize these school-based health centers to "provide primary medical care" that includes "**reproductive health services**...through mobile health or telehealth."¹ Reproductive health services is code for abortion. Accordingly,

¹ *Bill text.* Bill Text - AB-1940 School-Based Health Center Support Program. (n.d.). Retrieved April 12, 2022, from https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=20210220AB1940 (Section 2 and Section 3).

this bill will provide direct state funding for school-based health centers providing abortion and birth control services to children on school campuses throughout the state.

Once this program is funded, the next step will be to provide **abortion pills** to grade school and high school girls on school campuses through these “school-based” health centers, just as has already been mandated at all California public colleges with the passage of SB 42 in 2019. Already minors have the “right” to abortions without parental consent or even parental notice.

Under AB 1940, the State Department of Education is in charge of administering the new School-Based Health Program as well as coordinating its operation with the School-Based Health Alliance. So people who are in charge of educating our children will also be in charge of ensuring our children can access chemical and surgical abortion services, all paid for by taxpayers without their knowledge.

And working in concert with other pro-abortion laws already on the books, and those bills currently in committee, AB 1940 will ensure that any such state-funded chemical or surgical abortions can secretly and conveniently take place on school campuses, public or private, without parental involvement and without a doctor.²

- Nurse practitioners (NPs) will perform abortions “without regard to the type of setting or facility” in 2023 (AB 890). That means NPs can perform services on school campuses.
- Mid-wives and physician assistants can perform abortions unsupervised by a doctor if AB 1375, a bill currently under consideration, were to pass. That will mean physician assistants located at school-based health centers can administer chemical abortion drugs to 12 year old school girls through the school-based health centers.

The Department collects program data to inform function and grant funding. Grant applicants for School-Based Health Center Funding “shall meet or have a plan to meet all” of the program requirements enumerated under Section 8 of the bill, which includes providing reproductive services – code word for abortion services. So, pro-life clinics operating in or near schools would be automatically excluded from operating as a School-Based Health Center, if they would otherwise qualify for grants.

² Because SB 245 and AB 1184 have already become law, insurance companies must pick up the tab for all abortions performed on minors and may not share any information with parents – so parents will never know whether their young daughter has suffered the emotional trauma associated with abortion.

For these reasons we oppose AB 1940 unless amended to remove the phrase “reproductive health services” throughout the bill.

Very Truly Yours,



Susan S. Arnall, Esq.



Vice President of Legal Affairs
Right to Life League