

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris
Capitol Office
P. O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0074

Re: AB-1918 California Reproductive Health Services Corps.

Dear Assemblymember Petrie-Norris,

I was present at the April 19, 2022, committee meeting, and I read the attached statement in opposition. It was read to you again by Kathleen Jones at the April 26, 2022, meeting.

Abortion is an emotional subject. Logic doesn't play a starring role in it, and it frequently puts people on the defensive. As a result, our conversations about abortion tend to hit a brick wall. However, abortion kills what is factually a living, unborn whole organism of the human species. I think we can agree on that, true? I comprehend that some abortions are more understandable than others (e.g., rape, incest, mental illness), but those are not the circumstances that most women claim as the reason for their abortion.

Is abortion the best we can do? I don't think it is, but government seems to focus attention there, to the point of being hostile to pregnancy centers that offer help to women who want to keep their children. The pregnancy center I volunteer with is located immediately next door to an abortion clinic, which sometimes sends clients to us. Why? Because we provide free pregnancy tests and verifications. They will perform the pregnancy test, but they won't provide written verification without payment. Planned Parenthood's website states "Remember, no one will be turned away due to inability to pay." That statement applies to abortion-related services, only. A woman who wants to keep her baby must pay to obtain a verification.

We also offer free ultrasounds, prenatal vitamins, maternity clothes, baby clothes, diapers, wipes, formula, etc. We seek to develop ongoing, trustworthy relationships with our clients. No one is required to chip in and pay for any of the services we provide to women and their families. We also offer free abortion recovery groups to men and women who have been traumatized by abortion.

Abortion only deepens the wounds caused by homelessness, sexual abuse, broken families, addiction, poverty, abandonment, rape, sex trafficking, and mental illness. I would go so far as to call abortion the penalty paid by women in those circumstances.

Abortion pits a woman against her child. As mentioned in the attached statement, I've led abortion recovery groups for 15 years. It has been a privilege to be a part of each woman's healing journey. I have no illusions about the difficulties faced by a woman with an unplanned pregnancy but taking the life of an innocent human being is not the solution.

There is no honor in abortion, and there is nothing honorable about AB-1918. It can only leave a legacy of sorrow and death for those who wrote it, and those who approve it.

Sincerely,

Sonja Bates
6562 Valaria Drive
Highland, CA 92346-2301

Enclosure: Statement of Sonja Bates

c (w/encl.): Senator Josh Becker
Assemblymember Steve Bennett
Assemblymember Jose Medina
Assemblymember Jim Wood, Chair
Assemblymember Marie Waldron, Vice Chair
Assemblymember Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry
Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula
Assemblymember Frank Bigelow
Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo
Assemblymember Heath Flora
Assemblymember Brian Maienschein
Assemblymember Chad Mayes
Assemblymember Kevin McCarty
Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian
Assemblymember Luz M. Rivas
Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez
Assemblymember Miguel Santiago