

July 11, 2024



Senate Appropriations Committee
California State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: Opposition to AB 2085: Planning and zoning: permitted use: community clinic.

Dear Senate Appropriations Committee:

On behalf of concerned citizens, mothers, and parents across the state of California, the Right to Life League is opposed to AB 2085, a bill that would provide an expedited approval process for community clinics offering reproductive health services, including abortions.

AB 2085 is a reactionary bill to city councils that have used zoning laws to prevent abortion clinics from opening in their certain communities.

This bill represents a direct assault on local governance and the values of California communities. It is a specific and targeted assault on the ability for local communities to govern themselves and uphold their own values. By passing this into law, the state would be giving undue priority to the abortion industry over the rights of citizens.

Communities deserve the ability to decide if they want an abortion facility down the street from them, as they do whether they want a bar, strip club, or any other industry within their city limits. There is evidence that the building of Planned Parenthoods in communities where they are not wanted can cause strife and tension between constituents, as well as lower property values.

In June 2023, hundreds of pro-life activists gathered to protest a proposed Planned Parenthood building in [Fontana, California](#). The activists were concerned about the impact to the community. National Right to Life News reported that primary concerns were related to the incongruity found in placing an abortion facility in a community that so highly values life.

Last year, nearly [180,000 babies](#) were aborted in California. That number is up [16%](#) post-Dobbs. Furthermore, general trends show that from 2017 to present there has been an increase in rates of abortion from 16 per thousand women to [22.5 per thousand](#) women indicating that there is not an increased challenge in obtaining an abortion.

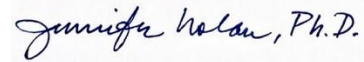
Though proponents for the legislation claim it is necessary to imbalance the number of pregnancy resource centers to abortion clinics, they are using misleading data. While best numbers do generally contest the claim that pregnancy resource centers outnumber abortion clinics—there are roughly [179 crisis pregnancy centers](#) and [180 abortion clinics](#)—further research reveals this claim to be even more deceptive in its reality. In truth, there are over [415 abortion](#) providing facilities, including physicians' offices and hospitals, throughout the state, greatly outnumbers pregnancy resource centers.

Preventing this legislation from passing will not stop Planned Parenthoods from being built but will merely ensure that local and community control over what kinds of industries operate in a given area is up to its citizens alone. It is essential for the peace and security of our communities that these decisions be left at the local level. There is no reason to make it easier to take state control away from local cities.

Conclusion

This bill, AB 2085, if passed will only continue to cause tension and animosity between the state and its citizens. Local control of zoning allows communities and their citizens to have full say over the kinds of industry that are in their neighborhoods. Using zoning laws to discount citizen opinions and local control is an undemocratic way to instill more abortion facilities where they are unneeded and unwanted. It is with the utmost fervor that the Right to Life League urges you *not* to pass AB 2085.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Nolan, Ph.D." The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Dr. Jennifer Nolan
Executive Director
Right to Life League