

July 11, 2024



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

RE: Opposition to AB 2490: Reproductive Health Emergency Preparedness Program

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 2490, a bill that is seeking to create what the bill's author has deemed the Reproductive Health Emergency Preparedness Program, by training emergency rooms across the country in abortion care so that women do not "end up in a crisis pregnancy center."

We believe that women deserve excellent and compassionate healthcare, especially when they find themselves in an unexpected and difficult situation. We also understand that at the heart of this legislation is the desire to ensure and protect women in the process. However, the Right to Life League vehemently disagrees with the fact that AB 2490 will do more than force emergency rooms to reduce women's healthcare to abortion and contraception.

Concerns with AB 2490:

- **Lack of Comprehensive Healthcare:** The implementation of this program will sacrifice comprehensive reproductive and sexual healthcare in favor of prioritizing abortion and contraception. This could lead to worse, and potentially dangerous, outcomes for both women's and maternal health. Comprehensive care covers the physiological, nutritional, and psychological needs they may have.
- **Alternative Measures are Available:** Funding this program could go to significantly more beneficial causes that would solve the same issues women face today. Funding could be considered for increasing OBGYN training, lowering the C-section rates, addressing maternal mortality, increasing alternative parental care options, and addressing social determinants of health.
- **Avoidable Abortions:** Under this program, women entering an emergency room may feel coerced and manipulated into an abortion for lack of options or information. The bill itself claims it will seek to provide a "medically accurate" education as well as seek to correct "common misinformation" about abortion. The slight underhanded comments aimed at crisis pregnancy centers is evidence enough that this program will seek to drive women away from pregnancy clinics in favor of obtaining abortion care or aftercare from an emergency room. Proponents of this legislation claim that OBGYNs are not reliable

and that we should be essentially worried about these women in unexpected situations ending up in crisis pregnancy centers. The reality is that women deserve the full range of information before they are forced into making a decision. Expanding abortion access to emergency rooms could prevent the honest transfer of information and lead to many avoidable lives lost.

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.

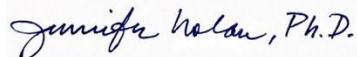
As the California Catholic Conference notes in their opposition letter, abortion is already free and ubiquitous in California. Pushing unwanted abortion on our communities is exploitative.

Furthermore, California had dedicated over [\\$200 million](#) in the last year and a half to “reproductive healthcare.” In California, there is no need for further advertising of abortion care. This state alone has nearly [25%](#) of all abortion clinics in the entire nation. While best numbers do generally contest the claim that crisis pregnancy 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 crisis pregnancy centers. These misleading numbers are a primary rationale for the need for this legislation and they are at their root a falsehood.

Conclusion

AB 2490 is at its root an attempt to continue to expand abortion access to vulnerable populations who feel they have no other options. By spreading misinformation about crisis pregnancy centers these emergency rooms could be taking advantage of and manipulating women into dangerous situations. It is with the utmost fervor that the Right to Life League urges you *not* to pass AB 2490.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jennifer Nolan
Executive Director
Right to Life League