

July 11, 2024



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

RE: Opposition to AB 2670: Awareness Campaign: Abortion Services

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 2670, a bill that would create an awareness campaign for abortion services that can be found at abortion.ca.gov. We simply believe that this is an unnecessary use of public dollars.

Abortion.ca.gov by its very existence is an awareness campaign for where women can get an abortion in the state. Furthermore, this bill is clearly a method through which those who support abortion clinics are aiming to slander and disavow the value and usefulness of pregnancy clinics.

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 pregnancy resource 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. These misleading numbers are a primary rationale for the need for this legislation and they are at their root a falsehood.

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.

The messaging surrounding pregnancy resource centers seems to differ wildly between both sides. Resource centers are very clear about the message they want to send out to the world being one of hope and optimism. While they do not provide abortions, supporting these centers means supporting alternative care facilities for women in need. Meanwhile, the opposition to these centers is clear about not only not supporting them, but about how they are unethical, dangerous, and need to be entirely eradicated, without evidence or support as to why.

The reality is that these pregnancy centers are essential in providing care to mothers in resource situations. The following points are incontrovertible facts regarding these clinics:

- *They provide an alternative solution to Planned Parenthood so that mothers have a real choice:* Support for these centers lies in the fact that they provide alternative solutions and options for those seeking an abortion. The [training](#) centers tend to put out information saying they recommend being advocates for life, provide support, give out free diapers and baby supplies, parenting classes, and sometimes housing. These centers, according to [Marie Leatherby](#), the president of the California Alliance of Pregnancy Care, are a safety net for pregnant women that allow people to come and go freely if they want to seek an abortion. Some proponents of these centers also argue that this is filling a need for care and aid where Planned Parenthoods may be unwilling to, as they outnumber Planned Parenthood's [11 to 2](#) in rural areas.
- *They provide a safety net:* One of the most overlooked benefits of pregnancy resource centers is relating to the value of having additional resources in the world for mothers experiencing surprise or unexpected pregnancies. [The Charlotte Lozier Institute](#) says that these centers provide essential care including “support services, medical care, and resources, usually at no cost to the women, men, and youth they serve.” Governors across the country are arguing that these centers need funding regardless of the status of abortion in the state. If the state has banned abortion, women need safe places to turn, and if they have no banned abortion then women need to be made aware of their alternative options.
- *General Trends:* Lawmakers in 13 states have opted to provide direct funding to pregnancy resource centers. Three more states—West Virginia, Iowa and Tennessee—are expected to join this year. [Governors](#) from Texas and Tennessee, among others, are all among the state level groups that are hoping to get state-level policy passed. Many organizations are playing to the fact that the general American trends are moving toward supporting these centers because they are operating in a space where others are not.

A further important note with AB 2670 is related to a Supreme Court case that was decided in 2018. Just 6 years ago, the Supreme Court struck down an unconstitutional California law called the [FACT Act](#), which was an attempt by state legislatures to force organizations to say something against their will. The Act blatantly attempted to stifle the work of pregnancy centers by forcing them to share information about state-sponsored abortion [facilities](#), thereby violating their First Amendment right.

AB 2670 represents another line of legislation much like those that came before attempting to harm these centers through backhanded channels. [AB 315](#), [AB 602](#), and [AB 710](#) are all examples of prior pieces of legislation that sought to target pregnancy clinics by creating pro-abortion awareness campaigns or incentivized prosecution against resource centers. The Supreme Court has deemed this entirely unconstitutional and as such AB 2670 should not be passed.

Conclusion

AB 2670 represents nothing more than another attempt to slander, harm, and diminish the influence and benefits of pregnancy resource centers across the state. This bill, based on false premises and with bad intentions, seeks to do nothing more than encourage women away from

seeking the help, care, and assistance they can find at a pregnancy resource center. It is with the utmost fervor that the Right to Life League urges you *not* to pass AB 2670.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Nolan, Ph.D.

Dr. Jennifer Nolan
Executive Director
Right to Life League