



September 2, 2022

VIA Email to the Office of the Governor and Author

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2223 (Wicks) – Reproductive Health – REQUEST FOR GOVERNOR'S
SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The League of Women Voters of California writes to request your signature on AB 2223 (Wicks), which would protect people from criminal prosecution for self-administered abortions, miscarriages, stillbirths, or infant death due to pregnancy-related causes. It further clarifies that no one will be investigated, prosecuted, or incarcerated for their actual, potential, or alleged pregnancy outcomes. It makes explicit that the Reproductive Privacy Act prohibits pregnancy criminalization and creates a private right of action in civil courts for people whose rights have been violated.

The League of Women Voters of California is committed to protecting the constitutional right of privacy of individuals to make reproductive choices. Criminalization impedes choice and deters people from accessing medical care. It also has a disproportionate impact on Black, Indigenous, and other people of color due to the double-whammy of over-policing and incarceration

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in those communities, and the fact that racial inequities already create a higher likelihood of adverse pregnancy outcomes. Finally, criminalization inequitably burdens immigrants, queer and trans people, young people, and others who may self-manage abortions because care in formal medical systems is inaccessible.

Despite existing laws that protect the right to choose in California, people have been charged with homicide for pregnancy losses. Those criminally charged have had very few ways in which to address their victimization by the legal system. As other states enact regressive laws and create barriers to reproductive health, California must ensure that the right to choose is not impeded by the criminal legal process.

For these reasons, the League of Women Voters of California strongly supports AB 2223 (Wicks) and requests your signature. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Moon Goldberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Moon Goldberg

President