



March 31, 2026

The Honorable Mia Bonta, Chair
Assembly Health Committee
1021 O Street, Room 100
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2540 (Stefani) Public health: public postsecondary education: student health centers:
abortion by medication techniques - OPPOSE**

Dear Chair Bonta and Honorable Members of the Assembly Health Committee,

The California Catholic Conference **opposes AB 2540 (Stefani)** as amended 3/27/26. This bill requires a marketing campaign of abortion on college campuses.

We are always opposed to the violence of abortion. However, reducing the needs of students to abortion at the expense of every other kind of assistance and medical care is exploitative and reproductive coercion. Abortion is already free and ubiquitous in California – available on college campuses, performed by doctors, nurse practitioners, midwives, and physician assistants, as well as at 400 facilities across the state, and via telehealth and a dozen sources by mail. At the same time, student parents face a lack of affordable and accessible childcare with waitlists of a year or more on campus, high family housing costs, and fewer and fewer options for medical care. Pushing unwanted abortion on our communities is exploitative and is reproductive coercion.

What college-aged women in maternity care deserts and HRSA's cannot find are enough doctors who can safely monitor them through pregnancy and deliver their infants.


- 1 in 4 California women receives inadequate prenatal care.
- 46 maternity wards have closed since 2012, half in the last three years.
- Doctors are assisting at hundreds of births per year.
- The average OBGYN age is 51, with most retiring by 59.
- Rural California counties have no OBGYN.
- Maternal mortality has doubled in California, with astonishingly high rates for Black and Native mothers.

All this has occurred while abortion has expanded on our college campuses and across the state. California is failing at reproductive healthcare that women need, and lawmakers need to ensure parity for the choices of pregnant and parenting women as they pursue motherhood. These pregnancy needs ought not be ignored.

The California Catholic community is 12 million strong, and we are the largest private nonprofit provider of healthcare, education, and social services for the common good in our state. The Conference advocates for the dignity of every human person and policies that help cultivate strong, healthy families.

For these reasons, as the official public policy voice for the Catholic Church of California, we request that you vote **“no” on AB 2540**. Should you have any questions regarding our position please contact Molly Sheahan, Associate Director for Healthy Families at 916.313.4019 or msheahan@cacatholic.org.

Sincerely,


Kathleen Buckley Domingo
Executive Director

KD:MS:mip