# AB 2540

***Community College***
***Student Right To Access Act***

ASSEMBLYMEMBER DISTRICT 19
**Catherine Stefani**

## SUMMARY

AB 2540 would close a gap in reproductive access for college students by requiring California community colleges (CCC) that have existing student health centers (SHC) to provide medication abortion services. This bill would also require all schools to promote awareness and publish information about available services on their website.

## BACKGROUND

In 2022, Californians enshrined in our state constitution the fundamental right to access abortion and contraception care through the passage of Proposition 1. The College Student Right to Access Act (SB 24, Leyva) was signed and passed into law in 2019, requiring all California State Universities (CSU) and University of California (UC) college campuses to provide medication abortion services by January 1, 2023.

To support implementation, the CA Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CCSWG) were required to allocate $200,000 to each campus from the College Student Health Center Sexual and Reproductive Health Preparation Fund, allowing these institutions the flexibility to use the funds to develop clinical capacity, train staff, and establish the necessary infrastructure to provide medication abortion services.

At the time, certain CSU and UC campuses were better positioned to provide medication abortion services, and the remaining schools that needed to build up their capacity received funds through the implementation dollars. However, the CCC campuses did not have the same health center infrastructure and were thus left out of this requirement. The COVID-19 pandemic later changed this landscape, as more CCCs began to invest in more infrastructure and resources towards health care services on campuses.

The CCCs have the largest higher-education system in the United States. Specifically in California, there are 116 college campuses with 2.2 million students enrolled annually.[1] Multiple sources show that 93 out of the 116 (nearly 80%) CCCs have a SHC.[2] The health infrastructure of the CCC system is a patchwork of on-campus clinics, third-party virtual partnerships, and community-based referrals. While there is no state mandate requiring every campus operate a physical health center, the CCC Chancellor's Office Vision 2030 Initiative has significantly expanded access through telehealth

[1] Student Enrollment and Demographics | California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
[2] Student Health Services on Community College Campuses in California;
Increasing reproductive health services through Family PACT participation among California community college student health centers: Journal of American College Health: Vol 71 , No 9 - Get Access;
HSACCC Annual Survey: Landscape of Student Health Service Programs (SHSP)

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and insurance enrollment pilots in recent years. In terms of sexual health and reproductive health services, there are some schools that already provide STI/STD and pregnancy testing, contraceptives, and sexual health education.

## THIS BILL

Reproductive health services are an essential part of student health. All students, no matter what type of college they choose to attend, deserve the same, equitable access to critical services. AB 2540 will require CCCs with existing SHCs to provide students with access to medication abortion services, effective upon appropriation. This service may be performed by staff at the SHC, through telehealth services, or by providers associated with a contracted external entity.

AB 2540 would also require the CA Community College Chancellor's Office to submit a report to the legislature regarding the landscape of SHCs and their ability to provide reproductive services. Additionally, AB 2540 would require UC, CSU, and CCCs campuses to increase awareness about the availability of medication abortion services to students by publishing the information on their public website.

## SUPPORT

- ACCESS Reproductive Justice (Co-Sponsor)
- Black Women for Wellness Action Project (Co-Sponsor)
- California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (Co-Sponsor)
- Reproductive Freedom for All California (Co-Sponsor)
- Student Senate for California Community Colleges (Co-Sponsor)
- Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity (Co-Sponsor)
- Alianza
- American Nurses Association
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Southern CA
- Buen Vecino
- CA LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network
- CA Nurse Midwives Association
- CA Teachers Association
- CA Women's Law Center
- Faculty Association of CA Community Colleges
- Health Access CA
- Indivisible CA StateStrong
- Maternal and Child Health Access
- National Health Law Program
- Planned Parenthood Affiliates of CA
- The Women's Foundation CA
- University of CA Student Association

## STAFF CONTACT

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