



REVERENCE FOR LIFE

SB 320 (Leyva, D-Chino) Public health: public postsecondary education: student health insurance plans: on-campus student health centers: abortion by medication techniques. This bill would require student health insurance plans offered by campuses of the California State University (CSU) and the California Community Colleges to include coverage of abortion as part of the student health insurance plan and would require their on-campus health centers to offer abortion by medication techniques and scientifically accurate abortion counseling services to their students. The bill would impose the same requirements of the University of California (UC) campuses, adding these requirements as a condition for their use of state funds for purposes of providing health insurance coverage for its students. **(OPPOSE)**

HISTORY & BACKGROUND

Current law allows CSU and state community college campuses to offer health insurance plans to its students. Additionally, the health insurance plans of some UC institutions include abortion services; however, students currently must go off campus to access this service. Alternatively, students who are not covered by UC health insurance plans that include abortion and do not have their own private insurance that covers abortion, must either pay for abortion services out-of-pocket, or apply for Medi-Cal, which is the state-funded medical insurance program.

“All life has inestimable value, even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor... deserv[e] the utmost reverence and respect.”

~Pope Francis

CHURCH TEACHING

Because we believe we are all created in the image of God, we hold life to be sacred from conception to natural death. We believe that we are stewards, not owners, of this gift of life from a loving God. We oppose abortion and public taxpayer funding of abortion and support limitations and restrictions on its practice. We support policies and services that assist pregnant women to make life-affirming choices. We advocate for programs which offer medical, economic and emotional support for pregnant women and children, so that there is never any incentive to abort a child.

TALKING POINTS

- ▶ **SB 320** will hurt young women by forcefully promoting abortion-inducing drugs, including the Abortion Pill RU-486, on college campuses. These pills cause miscarriages during the first 10 weeks of pregnancy and may result in pain and harmful complications to the patient, including hemorrhaging and/or delivery of fetus remains in students' homes, dormitory rooms and public restrooms, both on- and off-campus.
- ▶ **SB 320** would reduce the current standard of women's health care by mandating school health clinics to provide chemical abortifacients. College-age women, especially those who face life-changing decisions, deserve a safe and supportive environment where they can receive appropriate health care and support, including pregnancy counseling and/or options regarding adoption.
- ▶ The state of California should have no role in encouraging abortions in our public post-secondary educational institutions nor should it punish students and campuses for non-compliance by threatening to reduce or eliminate funding for other important women's health services. The bill appears to make the state one-sided on an issue of moral significance and controversy. The state should also be promoting life-affirming clinics - most of which provide free services - so that women in need have access to all the choices available.