



REVERENCE FOR LIFE

THE ISSUE: SB 320 (as amended) *Public health: public postsecondary education: on-campus student health centers: abortion by medication techniques (Leyva, D-Chino)*. SB 320 would require student health centers at California's public universities (UC and CSU) to offer abortion drugs (like RU 486) to students that is paid for by the Medication Abortion Implementation Fund (created by the bill), which will be funded through donations and grants and administered by the California State Treasurer. The authors have refused to amend the bill to prohibit the contribution of any public monies to the fund. **(OPPOSE)**

“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

HISTORY & BACKGROUND

Sadly, California continues to promote abortion by both paying for abortions through Medi-Cal and including it in health insurance plans. Current law requires UC students to have health insurance and allows CSU 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. Very much contrary to the claims of proponents, there is no problem with “abortion access” near California's universities.

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 that 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 without appropriate health support. 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. The bill will make the state completely one-sided on an issue of moral significance and controversy. The state should be promoting life-affirming clinics - most of which provide free services - so that women in need have access to all the choices available.