



Quotes from Authors of Legislation in the 2023 Bill Package

Assemblymember Dr. Akilah Weber:

“Medication abortion is a safe and effective method of terminating a pregnancy, and is preferred by many people who obtain abortions. Currently, Medi-Cal only covers medication abortion for up to 70 days gestation, even though evidence-based research has determined that extending the time the medication can be used, to 77 days gestation, is effective and safe. AB 576 would require the Department of Health Care Services to reimburse providers for the medication as it aligns with clinical guidelines, evidence-based research, and the discretion of the provider. By extending the time that a pregnant individual can receive abortion medication, we are allowing families to make the major family planning decision that is most appropriate for their life.”

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan:

“When we protect patient's privacy, we protect their dignity, their security and their right to make their own decisions about their bodies. Whether we are protecting a patient's medical records with AB 352 or data from a fertility tracking app with AB 254, we will secure abortion care by protecting privacy.”

Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo:

“An individual’s right to privacy is front and center in our fight for abortion access and reproductive freedom. AB 1194 closes loopholes that threaten the privacy of those who search for information related to contraception, pregnancy care, perinatal care and abortion services. AB 1194 ensures that California’s strongest privacy protections will apply to women and all individuals who seek information and resources on their personal reproductive health choices. Moreover, it is imperative that our advocacy continues to ensure that California remains a safe haven for women nationwide who seek high quality reproductive healthcare. Amid the US Supreme Court overturning abortion rights, AB 1432 ensures that California residents who own an out of state insurance contract are given the same access to reproductive health services as all other Californians.”

Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen:

“AB 1646 will expand access to reproductive and gender affirming care and will help California continue to keep up with the high influx of patients seeking care in the Golden State by allowing out-of-state medical school graduates to practice in California for up 90 days, many of whom may not otherwise have the ability to provide this critical care in their home state.”

Assemblymember Tasha Boerner-Horvath:

“I am proud to stand with my colleagues, shifting from defense to offense regarding what we are doing for women’s rights here in California. This year, we’re working on proactive legislation that addresses how we can better ensure women’s rights, health, and safety. I am demonstrating my commitment by authoring AB 1481, which will prevent against any delay in access to vital care for those who are expecting, regardless of health coverage status.”

Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris:

“Here in California we are doing everything in our power to protect and expand reproductive freedom. But this right is meaningless without real access – my AB 571 will prohibit an insurer from refusing to insure a health provider with malpractice insurance solely because they offer abortion or contraceptive services. We refuse to go backwards, and ensuring safe and compassionate care is fundamental to deliver on California’s promise as a reproductive freedom state.”

Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo:

“In California, fake women's health care centers – which lie to, shame, and intentionally mislead women about their reproductive healthcare options to block them from accessing abortion care — now outnumber abortion care clinics by 20%. It's critical that anyone seeking abortion care get medically accurate, comprehensive and unbiased information. That's why we introduced AB 710, which will launch a public information campaign to make sure women know where to get medically accurate information and are not deceived when they seek medical advice.”

Assemblymember Mia Bonta:

“With states across the country passing anti-abortion and anti-trans legislation, it’s vital that California shore up our protections against digital tracking of vulnerable people seeking healthcare. With every technological advancement, there is an opportunity for abuse. None is scarier than the potential for the abuse to invade personal and private healthcare decisions. This is why AB 793 is so important. This bill will put a stop to unconstitutional “reverse warrants” – preserving our digital privacy and protecting Californians’ right to live life on our own terms.”

Additional Quotes from LWC Members

Senator Catherine Blakespear:

“The erosion of reproductive rights across the country is deeply troubling. In California we are committed to ensuring that women determine for themselves whether, when and with whom to have children. Women’s reproductive care is simply healthcare. I proudly stand with the Legislative Women’s Caucus in support of measures to strengthen reproductive justice and continue California’s long legacy of serving as a national leader in advancing women’s rights.”

Assemblymember Gail Pellerin:

“Bottom line, nearly half of our states have or want to take away body autonomy for half of our people. Make no mistake, we now live in two Americas: one America that respects a person’s right to abortion healthcare, and the other America where the womb is now a crime scene. In California we will continue to pass new laws to protect and expand abortion access and continue to be a sanctuary state for persons everywhere seeking safe, legal, affordable, abortion and reproductive services.”

Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis:

“While access to reproductive health continues to be under attack across the country, California will not back down from our commitment to expanding and protecting the right of Californians and those who seek care here to make decisions over their bodies. No decision is more personal than choosing if or when to have a child. I am proud to continue to stand with the women of the California state legislature to uphold our state’s commitment to this fundamental right.”

Additional Quotes from FAB Council Members

“As we witness the unrelenting and downright cruel efforts to infringe on our right to bodily autonomy and basic human dignity through harmful bans and restrictions on basic healthcare across the country, we

are proud of California's steadfast commitment to strengthening protections of our basic human rights. Building on the historic wins for reproductive freedom from last year, the Legislative Women's Caucus has introduced a package of solutions that are not only responsive to the current attacks, but also reimagines reproductive healthcare. Black Women for Wellness Action Project, as proud steering committee members, are proud to join the LWC and our state leaders in the fight to secure reproductive justice for all.” — Onyemma Obiekea, Policy Director, Black Women for Wellness Action Project

“California has led the nation with robust, bold, and innovative policies that will expand and protect access to essential health services for millions seeking time-sensitive abortion care in our state, and serve as models for other safe states to adapt — but our work isn’t done. Abortion bans and restrictions are devastating and life-threatening — and disproportionately harm people with lower-incomes, BIPOC communities, youth, and individuals living in rural regions. For every year they remain in place, we have an obligation to develop and invest in new solutions that have a real impact on people’s health, lives, and economic security, and serve as a beacon of hope for a future that includes greater reproductive equity and justice for all.” — Amy Moy, Co-CEO, Essential Access Health

“California has remained a steadfast leader in the fight to protect and advance reproductive freedom amidst the national abortion crisis. This bill package is another chance to make our state’s values clear: California will continue to provide abortion access to all who need it regardless of where they call home. NARAL Pro-Choice California and our more than 371,000 members look forward to continuing to work alongside our partners on the Future of Abortion Council Steering Committee to ensure these bills become law and California continues to lead the way as a Reproductive Freedom state.” — NARAL Pro-Choice California Director Shannon Olivieri Hovis

“In the wake of the *Dobbs* decision, abortion patients, providers, and those who support and assist them are facing additional barriers and shifting landscapes. Continued action to protect reproductive freedom and bodily autonomy is crucial as we deal with the impacts of a post-*Dobbs* reality, and what’s more, extremists across the country will stop at nothing to restrict or outright ban access to abortion, birth control, gender-affirming care, and other essential forms of health care. Planned Parenthood, the Legislative Women’s Caucus, legislative supporters, and our partners cannot stop until we achieve reproductive freedom for all.” — Jodi Hicks, President and CEO, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California

“Last year, California took bold steps to establish ourselves as national leaders in reproductive freedom, working together to pass a historic legislative package that centered those most in need of equitable access to abortion. In California, we know what we can accomplish together—working hand-in-hand with the Governor, the legislature, and our CA Future of Abortion Council allies. TEACH is committed to continuing this critical work, advancing a legislative package that protects patients and providers, meanwhile doing the hard work of expanding access to reproductive health, rights, and justice.” — Flor Hunt, Executive Director TEACH (Training in Early Abortion for Comprehensive Healthcare)