



December 20, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California's 2022-23 State Budget and The Future of Abortion Access

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing reproductive health care providers; reproductive freedom, rights, health, and reproductive justice advocacy organizations; legal and policy experts; researchers; and advocates, we ask you to consider the following recommendations for purposes of investments in the California State Budget to improve abortion access in California as identified by the California Future of Abortion (CA FAB) Council.

This year, the U.S. Supreme Court is reviewing a direct challenge to the long-standing legal protections of abortion services under *Roe v. Wade*. Should the Court overturn or severely gut the protections under *Roe*, people in over [half of the states in the country](#)—over 36 million women and other people who may become pregnant—will lose access to abortion care. It is already happening. People in Texas have lost the protections under *Roe* when Senate Bill 8 went into effect on September 1, 2021.

On December 8, 2021, a series of recommendations were released by the CA FAB Council. These recommendations identify several urgent funding needs to protect, strengthen, and expand access to abortion services in California that can be addressed in the 2022-23 state budget:

- **Invest in Abortion Funds, Direct Practical Support, and Infrastructure to Support Patients Seeking Abortion Care.** The state should provide funding for abortion fund organizations, providers, and community-based organizations that provide practical and logistical support for patients. The state must immediately invest in the facilitation of direct logistical and practical support for patients, including practical support infrastructure, capacity building, and safety measures necessary to provide these support services for patients.

- **Support to Provide Centralized, Medically Accurate and Culturally Relevant Information for People Seeking Abortion Care in California.** To protect people from misinformation and disinformation, as well as provide people seeking abortion care in California with a central location to access information, the state should invest in the development of an online landing page to access information about potential providers, insurance information, practical and procedural support options, the types of abortion available to them, language access and assistance information, and much more.
- **Funding to Ensure Cost Is Not a Barrier to Care** by creating and funding an uncompensated care program to provide abortion services for individuals without other means of paying for care and establish a gap coverage program to assist those who lack coverage for abortion and abortion-related care, including those who are uninsured or underinsured due to gaps in their coverage.
- **Invest in a Diverse California Abortion Provider Workforce and Increase Training Opportunities for BIPOC and Others Historically Excluded from Health Care Professions** through the creation of scholarship and workforce training programs to improve the education and training of clinicians and other health care providers with diverse and/or rural backgrounds dedicated to providing abortion care in underserved areas and optimize ways to increase retention and recruitment of providers through loan repayment, grant programs, and support for affordable professional liability insurance coverage.
- **Provide Necessary Funding for Equitable Access to Abortion Services in Medi-Cal** including increasing reimbursement rates for abortion services and updating billing policies to enable medication abortion services through the use of telehealth and mail order medications while maintaining a sustainable and adequate reimbursement rate.
- **Funding to Modernize the PE4PW Program**, which provides same-day eligibility and temporary coverage for pregnancy related care for those likely to be eligible for Medi-Cal. The state must invest in updating the program, including expanding eligibility, eliminating coverage limitations, and improving web-based enrollment systems to ensure that patients receive timely care.
- **Investments in Comprehensive Sexual Health Education and Address Misinformation and Disinformation About Abortion.** The state must invest in the implementation and monitoring of existing state mandates to provide comprehensive health education as well as provide funding to culturally relevant community-based organizations that serve and provide medically accurate, comprehensive, and inclusive sexual health education, including information about abortion.
- **Funding to Support Efforts to Collect Data, Conduct Research, and Distribute Reports to Assess and Information Abortion Care and Education Needs in California.**

At a time when other states are passing alarming abortion bans and other restrictions across the country, we are proud to have a Governor who broadly and enthusiastically supports not only legal protections to abortion but also policies aimed at helping people access comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services, including abortion services, in the state. As your administration works to build a budget that addresses the wide variety of needs that must be met in the upcoming fiscal year, we strongly urge investments in the January proposed budget that truly reflects California’s values as a [“Reproductive Freedom State”](#) and invests in meaningful actions to ensure that abortion is available and equitably accessible to all.

For more details and information on the items included in this letter, please see the [CA FAB Council Report](#), or contact Lisa Matsubara, Lisa.Matsubara@PPACCA.org and/or Fabiola Carrion, carrion@healthlaw.org.

Sincerely,

The California Future of Abortion Council Steering Committee

ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Black Women for Wellness Action Project

Essential Access Health

NARAL Pro-Choice California

National Health Law Program

Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California

TEACH (Training in Early Abortion for Comprehensive Healthcare)

For a full list of organizations that developed these recommendations as part of the CA FAB Council, visit the report [online](#).

CC: Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services
Michelle Baass, Director, Department of Health Care Services
Senator Toni Atkins, Senate President pro Tempore
Assemblymember Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly
Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Finance
Assemblymember Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget