AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH May 7, 2024

Abortion Safe Haven for Arizona Residents

Reproductive health and abortion rights continue to be under attack at the expense of women's health and safety throughout the United States. Last year, approximately 160,000 people had to travel outside of the state they live to get abortion care. On April 9, 2024, the Arizona Supreme Court upheld an 1864 abortion law, which would go into effect on June 8, 2024. The law imposes a two- to five-year state prison sentence to "a *person who provides, supplies or administers to a pregnant woman, or procures such woman to take any medicine, drugs or substance, with intent thereby to procure the miscarriage of such woman, unless it is necessary to save her life."* There are no exceptions, including for rape or incest. This law would practically eliminate access to abortion in Arizona.

In response to this egregious ruling, Governor Gavin Newsom and the California Legislative Women's Caucus have proposed Senate Bill (SB) 233 (Skinner and Aguiar-Curry) to temporarily allow licensed Arizona physicians in good standing to provide abortion and abortion-related care to Arizona patients traveling to California through November 30, 2024. Arizona physicians would submit required documentation, including proof of their current Arizona licensure status, to either the Medical Board or the

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Osteopathic Medical Board of California, and after verification, the physician would be registered under the respective board for oversight. The bill contains an urgency clause and would take effect immediately. Given its urgency clause, even if Arizona repeals the 1864 ban, SB 233 would fill a critical time gap for care before an Arizona repeal could be implemented.

The bill does not include any new state funding. However, the organization "Red Wine & Blue," which represents a community of over half a million suburban women in swing districts throughout the U.S., has created the Arizona Freedom Trust to raise funds to compensate Arizona physicians. Additionally, in 2023, Governor Newsom and the California Legislature created a $20 million Abortion Practical Support Fund to cover travel, meals, childcare, and more as well as a $40 million Uncompensated Care Fund to cover abortion care costs for people who cannot afford care. These funds will continue to sustain abortion costs and support services for Arizonians and others seeking care in California.

In anticipation of the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* by the Supreme Court of the United States on January 25, 2022, the Los Angeles County (LAC) Board of Supervisors (Board) unanimously passed the motion, *Preserving Reproductive Health Access on the Anniversary of Roe v. Wade* (Mitchell-Kuehl). The motion mobilized the County to ensure all people in LAC have access to quality reproductive health care services, leading to the creation of the Abortion Safe Haven Pilot Project. The Abortion Safe Haven comprises a network of county agencies, community-based organizations, advocates, academics, business partners and healthcare providers committed to ensuring safe and equitable

access to reproductive care for everyone residing in LAC, as well as those traveling to our County to receive health services they cannot access at home.

The $20 million Abortion Practical Support Fund and $40 million Uncompensated Care Funding approved by the California legislature enable LAC to advance this work. The State Legislature also approved a $20 million fund specifically to support the Los Angeles County Abortion Safe Haven Pilot Project. The Department of Public Health and the Department of Health Services have both received grant funding from Essential Access Health, the fiscal sponsor of state funds directed to LAC to support this project.

The LAC Department of Public Health's (DHS) Office of Women's Health has created the Abortion Safe Haven website at abortionsafehaven.lacounty.gov to provide accurate, up-to-date resources and information about abortion, family planning, and related reproductive health services, to enable easy access to knowledge and care. The website can be viewed in nearly any language through the Google "Translate" feature, and the tools posted in PDF format are available in English, Spanish, and 10 other languages commonly spoken in LAC. Highlights of the Abortion Safe Haven website include:

1) **Abortion Resource Guide:** Lists abortion providers in LA County, along with information about insurance coverage, sources for funding to cover logistics like travel, lodging, and childcare; mental health resources; reproductive rights in California; abortion doula support; family planning resources; trusted national sites for abortion information; and guidance on Crisis Pregnancy Centers.

2) **Resource Guide on Birth Control and Abortion Care for Teens**: Provides contraception and abortion services organizations, school-based health centers, reproductive health resources, and health law resources for teens.
3) **Abortion Frequently Asked Questions**: Offers answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding abortion.
4) **How to Pay for an Abortion Tip Sheet**: Provides guidance and resources on how abortion services can be paid, including for out-of-state individuals.
5) **Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPC) Fact Sheet**: Outlines how to recognize and avoid anti-abortion centers.
6) **Advocates Guide for Addressing Reproductive Coercion in Intimate Partner Violence**: A guide on how to engage and support people experiencing Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).

DHS provides abortion access in a safe, compassionate, and supportive medical environment. The DHS medical centers provide pregnancy options, counseling, abortion, and family planning services for patients at their gynecology (GYN) clinics. DHS offers access to medication abortions and procedural abortions. In 2023, DHS conducted 353 procedural abortions, but due to space and resource limitations, DHS is currently unable to increase additional capacity for procedural abortions.

Through Abortion Safe Haven, DHS offers a toll-free abortion access line (877-CARE121) for those seeking abortion services at a DHS facility. Additionally, all 16 outpatient clinic sites across DHS have been trained to increase the number of DHS staff who are exposed to medically accurate abortion care information, values clarification, state laws, minor consent, DHS mandates for equity, reproductive coercion and other

issues related to countering misinformation campaigns. DHS has also hired additional dedicated advanced practice providers and health educators to provide medical and procedural abortion face to face visits, care coordination, education and other clinical duties related to patients seeking abortions.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Department of Health Services (DHS) in consultation with County Counsel to report to the Board in writing in 30 days on the feasibility of integrating Arizona pre-qualified Physicians to the abortion access line (877-CARE121) workflows for medication management services.
2. Direct DHS to report to the Board in writing in 180 days on a plan to increase capacity for procedural abortions in LA County DHS and identify funding and resource needs.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Department of Public Health (DPH) to make the Abortion Safe Haven website and the resource guide available to Arizona Department of Public Health counterparts, health care providers, reproductive justice community-based organizations, and others to ensure that Arizona residents can access reproductive health services and accompanying support services in Los Angeles County.
2. Direct DPH to amplify State messaging and assist in educating Arizona licensed physicians, on the steps that need to be taken to provide reproductive health care in Los Angeles County.

3. Direct DPH to report back in writing in 60 days on the status of the efforts outlined above.
4. Direct the Chief Executive Office-Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations unit to express support for Senate Bill 233 (Skinner and Aguiar-Curry), which would temporarily allow licensed Arizona doctors in good standing to provide abortion and abortion-related care to Arizona patients traveling to California through November 30, 2024.

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