

[Letterhead] / [Date]

The Honorable Christine Kehoe
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, California 95814
Fax: (916) 327-2188

RE: SB 1338 (Kehoe) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Kehoe:

[Supporting Organization] strongly supports SB 1338, which would ensure women receive comprehensive reproductive health care from local providers they know and trust by authorizing Nurse Practitioners (NPs), Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) and Physician Assistants (PAs) to provide early safe abortion care, by aspiration technique, under the terms of their licenses.

Aspiration abortion is a safe and effective procedure when provided by competent health professionals, including NPs, CNMs and PAs. A multi-year study conducted by The University of San Francisco's Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health, under a waiver from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, evaluated the safety, effectiveness and acceptability of NPs, CNMs and PAs providing aspiration abortion. Over the five years of the study, these health professionals provided care to 8,000 patients, whose outcomes were compared to 8,000 patients receiving care from physicians. The results of the study show comparable rates of safety, effectiveness and acceptability between the two categories of providers.

SB 1338 is critically important to improving women's reproductive health access in California. According to the Guttmacher Institute, 52% of California counties lack an abortion provider (removing hospitals, which typically provide a small number of procedures for medical and fetal indications).¹ Unfortunately, this lack of access causes women to delay the termination of their pregnancies. It also forces women to travel long distances—in the case of some rural areas, up to five hours; women have to raise money to cover these travel costs, further delaying care. By allowing additional health professionals to perform this procedure under the terms of their licenses, this bill helps to ensure that women are getting safe and early care. Furthermore, the bill will help provide comprehensive and better coordinated reproductive health care in areas such as miscarriage management, post-abortion follow-up and contraception.

Considering the continual attacks on women's reproductive health care across the nation, California should continue its legacy of protecting women's health and ensuring their access to safe and early care in their own communities by passing SB 1338.

For these reasons, [Supporting Organization] supports SB 1338. We thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely, [Supporting Organization]

¹ Jones RK, Zolna MR, Henshaw SK, Finer LB. Abortion in the United States: incidence and access to services, 2005. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 2008;40:6-16.