

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1973 (Aguiar-Curry) – As Amended April 8, 2026

Policy Committee:	Business and Professions	Vote:	14 - 4
	Health		11 - 4

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill authorizes a person to perform a procedural abortion if they are authorized under the Medical Practice Act, the Osteopathic Act, the Nursing Practice Act, or the Physician Assistant Practice Act to perform an abortion, and deletes the restriction that the abortion be performed only in the first trimester of pregnancy. The bill also specifies requirements for a nurse practitioner or certified nurse-midwife performing a procedural abortion.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No costs to the healing arts boards under the Department of Consumer Affairs.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill is cosponsored by TEACH, California Nurse-Midwifery Association, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, Essential Access Health, and Black Women for Wellness. According to the author:

California currently restricts advanced practice clinicians (APCs) from providing reproductive care, even when they are fully trained, competent, and experienced. These outdated barriers limit access to timely abortion and reproductive services. [This bill] removes these unnecessary restrictions, allowing APCs to practice to the full extent of their training and provide care using all safe, science-based methods. By modernizing California law, this bill expands access to compassionate, high-quality reproductive care, reduces delays for patients, and ensures that skilled professionals can deliver the services they are trained to provide. At a critical moment for reproductive rights, [This bill] mobilizes California’s full qualified workforce, strengthens equitable access across all communities, and aligns state law with contemporary medical standards, ensuring that patients receive care when and where they need it.

- 2) **Background.** According to a 2023 American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists issue brief, advanced practice clinicians (APCs: nurse practitioners (NPs), certified nurse midwives (CNMs), and physician assistants (PAs)) have the foundational skills necessary to be trained to provide medication and procedural abortion care. Studies have found that there is no significant difference in complication rates for medication abortions performed by

APCs and those performed by physicians, and that outcomes of medication abortions performed by APCs were within the established benchmarks for effectiveness and safety of medication abortion. Evidence also suggests that training APCs to foundational competence in some abortion procedures can be achieved relatively quickly through standardized competency-based training.

- 3) **Opposition.** The California Family Council (Council) opposes this bill, stating that second- and third-trimester abortions are complex surgical interventions requiring advanced obstetric and surgical competency. The Council asserts that NPs, CNMs, and PAs are not trained in the full scope of complications these procedures can produce, including uterine perforation, bowel injury, and sepsis, and concludes that allowing these providers to perform procedures that even experienced OB-GYNs approach with caution represents a dangerous lowering of the standard of care.

Analysis Prepared by: Allegra Kim / APPR. / (916) 319-2081