

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2540 (Stefani) – As Amended April 23, 2026

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| Policy Committee: | Health | Vote: | 12 - 3 |
| | Higher Education | | 7 - 3 |

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

SUMMARY:

This bill requires a student health center on a California State University (CSU) or University of California (UC) campus promote awareness of the services for abortion by medication techniques that the student health center offers, provide information on those services to students, and post the availability of those services on its website. Requires a community college (CCC) that has a student health center, upon appropriation, offer abortion by medication techniques as described above, promote awareness of those services, provide information on those services to students, and post the availability of those services on its website. Requires the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) to submit to the Legislature a report on abortion by medication techniques at CCC student health centers.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires, on or before January 1, 2028, each CSU and UC student health center to promote awareness of abortion by medication techniques offered by the center, provide students with information on those services, and post the availability of those services on its website.
- 2) Requires, on and after January 1, 2029, and upon appropriation by the Legislature, each CCC that has a student health center to offer abortion by medication techniques and authorizes the required service to be performed by providers on staff, through telehealth services, or by providers associated with a contracted external agency.
- 3) Requires CCC student health centers, on and after January 1, 2029, to promote awareness of those services, provide information on those services to students, and post the availability of those services on the student health center's website.
- 4) Requires, upon request from a CCC student health center, CCCCCO to assist and advise on potential pathways for the center to bill public programs and health insurance providers to help pay for the costs of providing abortion by medication techniques.
- 5) Requires CCCCCO to submit a report to the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2030, with specified information for each CCC relating to abortion by medication techniques, including availability, number of services performed, and expenditures on medication abortion readiness.
- 6) Sunsets on January 1, 2032.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Cost pressures to the CCC in the millions of dollars. The CCCCCO estimates one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs between \$75,000 and \$300,000 per health center, or between \$7 million and \$27.9 million in start-up costs across all 93 health centers in the CCC system to provide abortion medication on site. CCCCCO also estimates ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs between \$60,000 and \$100,000 per health center, or between \$5.6 million and \$9.3 million to maintain services across all 93 health centers. CCCCCO notes that CCC health centers operate with various levels of service, which are reflected in the ranges. CCCCCO reports additional General Fund workload costs up to \$54,000 to produce the required report.

CSU and UC report minor and absorbable costs.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year (FY) and ongoing.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill is sponsored by California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ), Student Senate for California Community Colleges, URGE – Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity, ACCESS Reproductive Justice, Black Women for Wellness Action Project, and Reproductive Freedom for All (formerly NARAL Pro-Choice America). According to the author:

Reproductive healthcare is an essential part of student health. All students deserve the same, equitable access to critical services – no matter what type of college they choose to attend. While CSU and UC students already have access to medication abortion, community college students, who are more likely to be low-income, working, and students of color, do not get to reap the benefits of this important service. This bill closes a gap by ensuring that 2.2 million students can access medication abortion services at their student health centers, through telehealth, or through a contracted entity. AB 2540 will also require campuses to provide information about medication abortion services, so students can access care without stigma, confusion or delay.

- 2) **Background.** SB 24 (Leyva), Chapter 740, Statutes of 2019, which went into effect in 2023, requires each student health care services clinic on a CSU or UC campus to offer abortion by medication techniques and requires the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CSWG) to produce annual reports of how each campus of the CSU and UC are expending funds for abortion by medication services. The reports include the amount of state grant funds, expenditure details, and the number of abortions provided by medication for each campus.

This bill expands the framework established by SB 24 beyond CSU and UC by extending onsite abortion by medication techniques to community college student health centers and adding awareness requirements to ensure students know those services are available.

CCC Health Services. There are 116 CCC campuses, of which 115 are brick-and-mortar campuses, and 93 have health centers. CCC health centers may be partially supported by student health fees; however, not all colleges charge this fee. For FY 2025–26, the maximum allowable health fee is \$26 per academic term, with most CCC campuses charging an average of \$23 per academic term. Health insurance is not required for most students, and CCCs do not generally provide health insurance through their campuses. The health centers at CCCs vary widely in structure and capacity, with many operating under limited staffing models or contracting services out to community providers and hospitals.

The author questions the cost estimate provided by the CCCCCO, contending that medication abortion is financially sustainable for CCC health centers through Medi-Cal, including through Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women, and that Medi-Cal provides reliable reimbursement, generally \$500 to \$600 per case. The author further argues that because abortion is a time-sensitive service, providers are not required to be contracted with a Medi-Cal managed care plan to be reimbursed. The author states third-party billing support through vendors is available, and other options include private insurance and telehealth options such as Plan C.

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