

---

# SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

---

**Bill No:** AB 2540 **Hearing Date:** July 1, 2026  
**Author:** Stefani  
**Version:** May 18, 2026  
**Urgency:** No **Fiscal:** Yes  
**Consultant:** Michelle Nguyen

**Subject:** Public health: public postsecondary education: student health centers:  
abortion by medication techniques.

## SUMMARY

This bill, upon appropriation, requires a community college with a student health center, by January 1, 2029, to offer access to abortion by medication techniques. This bill allows that this service may be performed by providers on staff at a student health center, through telehealth services, by providers associated with a contracted external agency, or through partnerships with other community health providers, as appropriate.

## BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the mission and function of the California Community Colleges (CCC), which, in part, is to:
  - a) Offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level for both younger and older students.
  - b) Authorizes the CCC to grant the associate in arts degree and the associate in science degree.
  - c) Requires the CCC to offer English as a Second Language instruction, adult noncredit instruction, and support services which help students succeed at the postsecondary level.
  - d) Advance California's economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous workforce improvement. (Education Code (EC) § 66010.4)
- 2) Requires, by January 1, 2023, each public university student health center on a California State University (CSU) or University of California (UC) campus to offer abortion by medication techniques onsite; establishes the College Student Health Center Sexual and Reproductive Health Preparation Fund to support medication abortion readiness at CSU and UC student health centers; and defines "medication abortion readiness" to include assessment of clinic needs, purchasing equipment, making facility improvements, establishing protocols, creating patient educational

materials, and training staff, but not the provision of abortion by medication techniques. (EC § 99250, et seq.)

- 3) Allows the governing board of a community college district (CCD) to require CCC students to pay a fee in the total amount of not more than ten dollars (\$10) for each semester for health supervision and services, including for the operation of a student health center or centers. Allows the governing board to increase this fee by the same percentage increase as the Implicit Price Deflator for State and Local Government Purchase of Goods and Services. (EC § 76355)

## ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Requires a CCC with a student health center, by January 1, 2029, to do both of the following:
  - a) Offer access to abortion by medication techniques, and allows that this service may be performed by providers on staff at the student health center, through telehealth services, by providers associated with a contracted external agency, or through partnerships with other community health providers, as appropriate.
  - b) Promote awareness of the services for abortion by medication techniques that the student health center offers access to, provide that information to students, and post the availability of those services on its internet website.
- 2) Provides that the implementation of #1 above is contingent upon an appropriation for its purposes in the annual Budget Act or another statute.
- 3) Requires that the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO), upon request from a CCC student health center, assist and advise on potential pathways for the student health center to bill public programs and health insurance providers to help pay for the costs of providing access to abortion by medication techniques.
- 4) Requires the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, by January 1, 2030, to submit a report to the Legislature, in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code, that includes, but is not limited to, the following information separately for each CCC:
  - a) The number of student health centers that provide abortion by medication techniques, provide access to medication abortion techniques through other providers, or both.
  - b) The number of abortions by medication techniques performed at student health centers or assisted through student health centers, disaggregated, to the extent possible, by student health center.

- 5) Provides that the reporting requirement described above is inoperative on January 1, 2031, pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.
- 6) Requires UC or CSU clinics providing primary health care services to students, by January 1, 2028, to: a) promote awareness of the services for abortion by medication techniques that are offered at the clinics, b) provide information on those services to students, and c) post the availability of those services on its internet website.

## STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** 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 contracted external entities. AB 2540 will also require campuses to provide information about medication abortion services, so students can access care without stigma, confusion or delay.”
- 2) ***CCC health centers.*** Out of 116 CCCs, there are 92 CCCs that have health care centers in the state. Though some university health care centers are full service, community colleges with health care centers generally have a more limited role in their students’ medical care, in that they are designed to provide episodic and short-term acute care and are referral-based models connecting students to community providers. These centers are not generally designed to offer preventive care or to treat chronic pain, and some are led by registered nurses and do not have a prescriber in their health center.

CCC student health fees reflect this limited model of care, with a maximum fee of \$28 per semester in 2026-27. In contrast, the UC requires students to be charged a fee for the UC Student Health Insurance Plan. This fee varies by campus and is estimated to cost \$2,533 per semester at UC Berkeley, for example.

- 3) ***Prior legislation required UC and CSU health centers to offer abortion by medication, but explicitly excluded CCCs from the bill.*** SB 24 (Leyva, Chapter 740, Statutes of 2019) required UC and CSU to offer abortion by medication techniques onsite, and allows for the service to be performed by providers on staff at the student health center, through telehealth services, or by providers associated with a contracted external agency. SB 320 (Leyva, 2017), a bill that was substantially similar to SB 24, included the CCCs in an earlier version of this bill, which was later excluded by committee amendments taken by the Senate Health Committee.

A difference between this bill and SB 24 is that this bill includes the CCCs with health centers but currently requires *offering access* to abortion by medication techniques and does not require that it happens *onsite*. Though this bill allows for the service to be performed by providers on staff at the student health center, CCC

health centers would very likely have to comply with the requirements of this bill by providing referrals to community centers or through telehealth services.

- 4) ***Uncertainty with pending Supreme Court decision.*** On May 14, 2026, the Supreme Court preserved access to a drug used in the most common method of abortion and rejected lower-court restrictions while a lawsuit continues. The Supreme Court's order allows women seeking abortions to continue obtaining the drug, mifepristone, at pharmacies or through the mail, without an in-person visit to a doctor. The current dispute is similar to one that reached the Supreme Court several years ago, when the justices blocked a 5th Circuit ruling and kept Mifepristone widely available, before ultimately unanimously dismissing the original lawsuit in 2024. While the Supreme Court's recent ruling keeps the status quo in place for now, some warn that the case is far from settled.

This bill requires CCC health centers to offer access to abortion by medication techniques, specifying that this service may be performed by providers on staff at the student health center, through telehealth services, by providers associated with a contracted external agency, or through partnerships with other community health providers, as appropriate. CCC health centers continue to be concerned about a scenario where telehealth services, which may be the only viable option for certain colleges (given a lack of available providers and community health partners), may be taken away as an option, leaving some CCC health centers with less capacity and fewer resources to serve students on their campuses.

- 5) ***Committee amendments.*** This bill is double-referred, with the Senate Health Committee being the first committee of referral. The Senate Health Committee passed AB 2540 out of its committee during their hearing on June 24, 2026, with a commitment from the author to take amendments in the Senate Education Committee. *Committee staff recommends, and the author agrees to, the following amendments:*

- *Clarify the ways that a CCC is deemed to have provided access to abortion by medication techniques.*
- *Authorize the CCCCO to enter into a statewide agreement with a health provider to provide CCC health centers with services and resources to meet the requirements of this bill.*
- *Require the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls to consult the CCCCO to develop a standardized reporting framework that minimizes administrative burden and protects student privacy.*
- *Specify that a CCC student health center is not required to collect protected health information from an external provider.*
- *Specify that the implementation of this bill is contingent upon appropriation in the budget act to support both direct and indirect costs of CCC health centers, and specifies eligible uses of funds.*

**6) *Related and Prior Legislation.***

SB 24 (Leyva, Chapter 740, Statutes of 2019) requires student health centers located on a campus within the UC or CSU that provide primary health care services to students, after January 1, 2023, to offer abortion by medication techniques onsite.

SB 320 (Leyva, 2018) was substantially similar to SB 24. SB 320 was vetoed by Governor Brown, who stated, in part:

“Access to reproductive health services, including abortion, is a long-protected right in California. According to a study sponsored by supporters of this legislation, the average distance to abortion providers in campus communities varies from five to seven miles, not an unreasonable distance. Because the services required by this bill are widely available off-campus, this bill is not necessary.”

**SUPPORT**

ACCESS Reproductive Justice (co-sponsor)  
Black Women for Wellness Action Project (co-sponsor)  
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (co-sponsor)  
Reproductive Freedom for All California (co-sponsor)  
Student Senate for California Community Colleges (co-sponsor)  
Training in Early Abortion for Comprehensive Healthcare (co-sponsor)  
Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity (co-sponsor)  
Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis  
ACLU California Action  
American Association of University Women of California  
American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, District IX  
California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls  
California Medical Association  
California Nurse-Midwives Association  
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network  
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California  
San Francisco Marin Medical Society  
Women’s Foundation California

**OPPOSITION**

California Family Council  
Fieldstead and Company  
LivingWell Medical Clinic

-- END --