
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2540 (Stefani) - Public health: public postsecondary education: student health centers: abortion by medication techniques

Version: July 2, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: HEALTH 9 - 1, ED. 5 - 2

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 2540 would require a community college that has a student health center to offer access to abortion by medication techniques, as specified.

Fiscal Impact:

- The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office indicates the following:
 - Unknown, but likely minor to moderate Proposition 98 General Fund costs, if districts satisfy the bill through referral-based partnerships with qualified healthcare providers. Based on a recent statewide survey conducted by the Health Services Association of California Community Colleges, more than 95 percent of community college health centers currently rely on referrals to external providers, while fewer than 5 percent provide medication abortion onsite. Under this referral model, costs would be primarily associated with updating protocols, training staff, providing patient education and care coordination, and conducting outreach regarding available services.
 - To the extent districts instead choose to provide medication abortion onsite or through telehealth partnerships, ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund costs could increase to the millions of dollars statewide. These models would require colleges to hire or contract with prescribing clinicians, establish new protocols, purchase equipment and supplies, train staff, modify facilities and information systems, and provide ongoing clinical oversight and compliance. Because community college health centers vary considerably in staffing, clinical capacity, and available resources, implementation costs would ultimately depend on the model each district adopts.
 - Minor one-time General Fund state operations costs for the Chancellor's Office to consult with the Commission on Status of Woman and Girls on collecting data for the report.
- The University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) anticipate minor and absorbable costs.
- The Commission on the Status of Women and Girls anticipates minor and absorbable costs.

Background: Current state law requires the UC and CSU student health centers to offer medication abortion onsite. This service may be performed by providers on staff at the student health center, through telehealth services, or by providers associated with a contracted external agency.

Current law requires the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls to administer the College Student Health Center Sexual and Reproductive Health Preparation Fund, for the purposes of providing private moneys in the form of direct allocations to UC and CSU to support medication abortion readiness at each student health center. Current law requires the commission, upon request from a UC or CSU student health center, to assist and advise on potential pathways for the student health center to bill public programs and health insurance to help pay for the costs of providing medication abortion. The commission, each year until December 31, 2026, must submit a report to the Legislature that includes information about the number of health centers that provide medication abortion, the numbers of medication abortions provided, and funding used for medication abortion readiness at student health centers.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Require UC and CSU student health centers, on or before January 1, 2028, to 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 internet website.
- Require, on and after January 1, 2029, a community college that has a student health center to do both of the following:
 - Offer access to abortion by medication techniques. 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. A community college may satisfy this requirement by providing information, facilitating referrals or warm handoffs, assisting students in identifying support resources, or maintaining current referral information for participating providers.
 - 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.
- Require, upon request from a community college student health center, the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to 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.
- Authorize the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to enter into a statewide agreement with a health provider to provide community college student health centers with the services and resources needed to meet these requirements.

- Require the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, on or before January 1, 2030, to submit a report to the Legislature that includes, but is not limited to, the following information separately for each community college:
 - The number of student health centers that provide abortion by medication techniques, provide access to medication abortion techniques through other providers, or both.
 - 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.
- Require the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, in consultation with the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, to develop a standardized reporting framework that minimizes administrative burden and protects student privacy.
- Make implementation of the provisions related to community colleges contingent upon an appropriation for its purposes in the annual Budget Act or another statute to support the cost, both direct and indirect, of meeting the requirements.

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