



CALIFORNIA FUTURE OF ABORTION COUNCIL

CATEGORICAL CHECKLIST

For California leaders and policymakers who seek to take meaningful action to expand and protect access to equitable abortion services and related health care, the following checklist highlights the CA FAB Council's recommendations by action type: Budget, Administrative, Legislative, and Research.

BUDGET

The California Future of Abortion Council calls for increased funding to support the provision of abortion in California and calls for funding to support the organizations who provide services, practical support, and training.

- **Fund the work of abortion fund organizations, abortion providers, or other community-based organizations that secure practical support needs for patients.**
- **Invest in the development of an abortion access landing page for centralized information for people seeking abortion care in California.**
- **Fund practical support infrastructure, capacity building, coordination, and safety measures for providers, clinics, patients, and funds.**
- **Create and fund a program to reimburse providers for services they provide to individuals without other means of paying for care.**
- **Improve Medi-Cal reimbursement rates to ensure that rates reflect the real cost of providing care.**
- **Establish an enhanced reimbursement program.**
- **Standardize telehealth policies across Medi-Cal and commercial payors.**
- **Improve the education pipeline for providers.**
- **Optimize loan repayment for clinicians.**

- **Create and fund a grant program for abortion training and providers serving medically underserved populations.**
- **Expand the Song-Brown Healthcare Workforce Training Program to include certified nurse-midwives.**
- **Establish funding for California-based organizations providing and enabling clinical abortion training in primary care.**
- **Provide grants to implement and/or re-introduce medication abortion in clinics.**
- **Provide funding for security infrastructure and allocate funds to implement training and enforcement of existing security and privacy laws to protect reproductive health care providers, patients, and clinics.**
- **Adequately fund implementation and monitoring of California’s existing comprehensive sexual health education mandate.**
- **Fund culturally relevant, community-based organizations that serve and provide medically accurate, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education, including on abortion, to various communities (e.g. immigrants, homeless, foster youth, BIPOC, LGBTQ, etc.).**
- **Fund staff educators and community health workers in Medi-Cal Minor Consent to provide comprehensive sexual health education inclusive of abortion education.**

ADMINISTRATIVE

The California Future of Abortion Council calls upon the California Agencies and the Administration to make permanent changes to improve the provision of abortion and amend the policies that hinder the provision of care.

- **Improve access to and capacity of Medi-Cal Transportation Services.**
- **Update Medi-Cal abortion policies for so that coverage and reimbursement for abortion and related care are consistent across Medi-Cal managed care plans.**
- **Limit reimbursement delays and claim denials for abortion services.**
- **The Department of Managed Health Care and the Department of Insurance should ensure that commercial plans have fair and reasonable rates.**
- **The California Department of Health Care Services must immediately update its Medi-Cal billing policies around medication abortion (MAB) to facilitate equitable access to MAB for Medi-Cal beneficiaries.**
- **The Administration should explore mechanisms, including working with other states, for California providers to offer MAB services to patients who reside in another state using telehealth.**
- **Update Medi-Cal abortion policies that limit access to abortion care for Medi-Cal beneficiaries.**
- **Modernize the Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women (PE4PW) Program, including eligibility requirements, coverage limitations, and the web-based enrollment system.**

- **Address existing barriers to abortion care later in pregnancy. There must be clear and consistent guidance, including but not limited to licensing boards, regarding existing protections under the Reproductive Privacy Act to address disparities in how the law is interpreted by various health care institutions across the state and ensure that institutions do not impose unnecessary restrictions to limit abortion care that people are entitled to access under California law.**
- **Ensure implementation and compliance with laws protecting patient confidentiality when they seek sensitive services.**

LEGISLATIVE

The California Future Abortion Council calls on the Legislature to make statutory changes to improve access to abortion care, support abortion providers, and address gaps in the health care system.

- **Establish a gap coverage program to provide coverage to Californians lacking coverage for abortion and abortion-related care, including those who are uninsured and underinsured.**
- **Eliminate cost-sharing for abortion and abortion-related services regardless of a patient's insurance type.**
- **Support the ability for abortion providers to obtain professional liability coverage.**
- **Require primary care and family medicine graduate programs to provide training in miscarriage management, medication abortion, and aspiration abortion.**
- **Review competency requirements for abortion training for nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, and physicians assistants.**
- **Assess and address gaps in abortion access in areas of the state that are served primarily by religiously affiliated hospitals.**
- **Enact legal protections from civil and criminal liability to the extent possible for clinicians that provide abortions to patients who reside in other states with hostile abortion laws.**
- **Protect people from prosecutions and criminalization of abortion or pregnancy loss.**
- **Protect patients that self-manage their abortion.**
- **Protect Californians from third-party enforcement of abortion restrictions at the local level.**
- **Repeal invalidated law requiring parental consent for abortion services.**
- **Enhance privacy protections for medical records related to abortion and pregnancy.**
- **Require school districts to participate in California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) and include a module on sexual and reproductive health care as one of the core survey modules.**

RESEARCH

The California Future of Abortion Council, as a Council and individual organizations, is committed to improving abortion access in California and will continue to generate reports and research related to sexual and reproductive health care. We call on California policymakers to support the necessary research to inform access to care.

- **Generate a FAB Council progress and impact report.**
- **Support research in the following areas to inform long term access to care and mobilization of resources:**
 - Educational and health awareness needs of populations most impacted by lack of access to abortion.
 - Effectiveness of sexual health education in public schools.
 - How youth/young people access sexual and reproductive health services and education.
 - Effectiveness and impact of the provision of medication abortion (MAB) in the state.
 - Community preferences for types of abortion services and levels of care.
 - Access to Telehealth.
 - Effectiveness of current reproductive and sexual health education interventions, including the extent to which interventions are patient-centered and/or community-based.