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Betsy Butler

March 30, 2021

The Honorable Richard Pan
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 245 (Gonzalez) – Support

Dear Dr. Pan,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of SB 245 which requires state-licensed commercial health plans and insurers to cover abortion care without imposing co-payments, deductibles, or any type of cost-sharing.

Abortion access is a legal right in California, codified by statute and included in the state Constitution. California is also one of six states that require health insurance plans cover abortion. However, barriers to getting an abortion remain, including the imposition of cost-sharing, co-payments, and high deductibles that must be met before coverage kicks in.

The average cost of an abortion increases as the pregnancy advances. The high costs associated with getting an abortion create a significant barrier to care and disproportionately affect people of color, transgender and non-binary individuals, people with disabilities, young people, and people experiencing poverty, perpetuating systemic health care disparities.

By prohibiting cost-sharing in state licensed commercial health plans, SB 245 helps ensure that no Californian is denied their right to abortion because of the cost. This will help give all individuals equitable, timely access to healthcare services, regardless of their income, status, race, location, or income.

CWLC's mission is to create a more just and equitable society by breaking down barriers and advancing the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. We prioritize ensuring equitable, timely and affordable access to reproductive health care for all.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 245.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director