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Betsy Butler

April 15, 2021

The Honorable Thomas Umberg  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2187  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 642 (Kamlager) – Support**

Dear Senator Umberg,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of SB 642 which would protect patients' rights to receive comprehensive health care and providers' ability to provide that care.

Over the last twenty years, hospital mergers and religiously affiliated acquisitions have increased in frequency and are seriously impacting patient care. Corporations can create a monopoly by acquiring all of the health facilities in a region, giving them unfettered power to dictate patient care. When religious health systems acquire independent health facilities, they often prohibit certain essential services from being provided, such as reproductive care, access to contraception, surrogacy arrangements, assisted reproduction, and end-of life care. These restrictions are not evidence-based or grounded in medical science.

SB 642 prohibits a health facility from requiring a physician or surgeon to comply with criteria, rules, regulations, or other policies or procedures that limit their ability to provide medical treatment to services. It would ensure that patients have access to necessary and comprehensive medical care. SB 642 would confirm that health care is not based on religious or personal beliefs, or profit motives that conflict with the ability of physicians and other healthcare providers who make treatment decisions.

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. SB 642 would protect a patient's right to access comprehensive healthcare and physicians and surgeons' ability to provide it.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 642.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler  
Executive Director