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February 27, 2019

The Honorable Connie Leyva
Chair, Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 2083
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support SB 24 (Leyva) – College Student Right to Access Act

Dear Senator Leyva,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of Senate Bill 24, which will improve students' access to reproductive health services by requiring all on-campus student health centers at public universities to offer medication abortion for students by January 1, 2023.

Currently none of California's public universities provide medication abortion services at their student health centers, despite how clinically safe it is. Presently, students must go off campus to access abortion care, often facing significant logistical and financial barriers. Such access is critical for low-income and parenting students, and those struggling with college debt and rising tuition costs. For these students, paying out-of-pocket at a clinic, securing reliable transportation, missing school, and taking time off from work are substantial obstacles.

SB 24 will address these barriers by requiring on-campus health centers at public universities to stock FDA-approved medications for abortion. Medication abortion is safe and effective. In addition, these health centers are staffed with nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, and certified nurse midwives who are authorized to dispense the medication. All student health centers at public universities meet the minimum requirements for medication abortion provision, including a private exam room, the ability to do pregnancy testing and counseling, and licensed clinicians, making the addition of this reproductive option for students a common-sense approach to accessible and safe health care for women.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy and education. For 30 years, we have prioritized women's health and worked to ensure that all women in California, regardless of age, ethnicity, or income level, have access to a full range of reproductive care.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center strongly supports SB 24.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director