

2024 Lobby Days

Talking Points for Assembly Bill 2099

Protecting Reproductive Health Clinics

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The Problem:

- There has been a significant increase in extreme anti-choice attacks against abortion clinics since the overturning of Roe v. Wade.
- Between 2021 and 2022 there was a 100% increase in arson at clinics, with one instance taking place in Burbank, California.
- During the same time period, death threats and threats of harm against care providers increased by 20%.
- Protesters have started using the internet to target providers, patients, and volunteers, posting photos, names, and locations. The threats and online harassment are not only intimidating but also pose serious personal risks.
- While these offenses can be criminal, it can be difficult for law enforcement to take action against offenders.
- California is one of the few places where people can receive safe and legal abortions in the United States. With the risk of criminal prosecution that many women face in other states, protecting patients' privacy and health care access in California has become ever more crucial.

The Proposed Solution - AB 2099:

- Under current California law, it is a misdemeanor to post information about reproductive health care patients or providers with the intent of using that information to commit a crime involving violence or threat of violence against them. **AB 2099 makes it possible for the D.A. to file a violation of these provisions as a felony if the posting and subsequent action by another person results in bodily injury.**
- AB 2099 provides more serious recourse against individuals who personally, or otherwise foment violence or the threat of violence, or work to inhibit or prevent an individual's Constitutional rights, including their access to reproductive health care. **Prosecutors will have latitude to pursue felony charges as they deem fit based upon the severity of the actions taken and the circumstances.**
- AB 2099 further increases legal protections for reproductive health care providers and patients commensurate with the risk they face. It preempts escalations in extremist violence, and protects the rights of individuals seeking and providing necessary healthcare.

Ask your Senator or Assembly Member to vote "aye" on AB 2099!