

Application for Consideration by the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC)

- Send applications to: issues@contracostadems.com
- Applications may refer to resolutions or legislation.
- It is recommended that applications be submitted at least 72 hours prior to the next scheduled Issues Committee meeting. The Committee generally meets on the Monday before the first Thursday of the month.
- Please limit your application to 4 pages if possible.

Section I: Administrative Information

Name or Title of Issue: *This bill establishes the California Reproductive Health Equity Program.*

Date of application: *June 30, 2022*

Name of organization or individual submitting application: *Craig Cheslog*

Contact email or phone number: *925-708-5845*

Name of person who will address the Issues Committee, as required (if different): *n/a*

Contact email or phone number: *n/a*

Section II: Background Information

What is the summary of your issues' intent and impact? Include bill number if appropriate. *AB 2134 would establish the California Reproductive Health Equity Program. The bill would ensure abortion and contraception are affordable for and accessible to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. It would also establish the California Reproductive Health Equity Fund to provide grant funding for safety net providers of these services to offset the costs of providing uncompensated care to patients with low incomes who otherwise lack access to care. The bill also would require health plans that offer coverage to employees of a religious employer that does not include abortion and contraception coverage to provide written information to those employees about the abortion and contraception benefits and services that may be available at no cost through the California Reproductive Health Equity Program.*

If you are requesting a position on legislation, please answer Questions 2-5.

1. What legislative body is considering this legislation (Federal/House, Federal/Senate, California Assembly, California Senate, or other Local Jurisdiction?) *California State Legislature*
2. Please include any companion bill numbers for legislation moving through the other house. *It is one of the bills that are a part of the California Future of Abortion Council's list of recommended statutory changes to improve access to abortion care, support abortion providers, and address gaps in the health care system.*
<https://www.cafabcouncil.org/ca-fab-checklist-new-version>
3. What is the bill title? *Reproductive Health Care*
4. Who are the author and any co-authors of the bill? *The bill is authored by Assembly Members Akilah Weber and Cristina Garcia. The principal co-author is Senator Caballero. The co-authors include Assembly Members Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Marc Berman, Lisa Calderon, and Matt Haney; and Senators Toni Atkins, Lena Gonzalez, Nancy Skinner, and Scott Wiener.*
5. What position are you asking the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County to take? *Support*
6. How does this issue align with the California Democratic Party platform and/or values? If it does not currently align with the platform, please explain why it is a Democratic value that we seek to include in a future platform. Please include specific name/date of platform plank, previous legislation, or resolution. *This legislation supports the California Democratic Party's platform calling for protecting "full reproductive health services that respects an individual's right to abortion."*
7. What are the expected outcomes of your issue for residents of Contra Costa County? Please include any reference sources that will help our committee understand the issue/history surrounding the legislation, including URLs and web links. The more our committee knows, the better we can review and analyze the issue. *Contra Costa residents with low incomes or working for religious employers would have access to low or no-cost abortion and contraceptive services.*
8. What is the timeline regarding your issue? Are there any deadlines or time constraints that the committee should be aware of when considering this matter, and making recommendations to the Central Committee membership? *AB 2134 will next be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee after the Legislature returns from its July recess.*
9. How does your issue relate to other current or proposed legislation? *It is one of the bills that are a part of the California Future of Abortion Council's list of recommended statutory changes to improve access to abortion care, support abortion providers, and*

address gaps in the health care system.

<https://www.cafabcouncil.org/ca-fab-checklist-new-version>

10. What has been the experience of your issue in previous legislative sessions and/or other states? *In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs decision to eliminate the federal right to abortion access, this legislation would help California fulfill the promise of our Governor and other legislative leaders to make us a Reproductive Freedom State. A vital element of this vision calls upon California to be prepared and ready to serve anyone who comes to our state seeking abortion services.*
11. What is the fiscal impact of your issue? *The bill's authors are seeking \$21 million over three years for the bill. The costs to the Department of Managed Care to implement the bill are unknown but likely in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars in the first fiscal year and \$100,000 per year after that. Costs to the Department of Insurance are anticipated to be minor and absorbable. The costs to the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) to administer the grant program are unknown, but the HCAI would be allowed to seek and accept private funding.*
12. Who are the primary proponents (including legislators) of this issue, and what resources do they bring to this effort? *The bill passed off the Assembly Floor by a 53-19 vote, including "aye" votes from Assembly Members Bauer-Kahan, Wicks, and Wilson. Contra Costa's representatives to the California State Senate have not had an opportunity to vote on the bill as of 6/28/22. Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara is a co-sponsor of the bill.*
13. Are there other elected officials or organizations that have signed on in support? *The bill is co-sponsored by ACCESS Reproductive Justice, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists District IX, NARAL Pro-Choice California, Essential Access Health, National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter, and Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California. Additional supporters are listed on page 11 of the Senate Health Committee's 6/27/22 bill analysis:
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billAnalysisClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB2134#.*
14. Who are the primary opponents? (Please be Specific) What arguments are used to oppose this policy? *California Catholic Conference, Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee, Fieldstead and Company, and the Right to Life League. Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) opposes AB 2134 because it forces conscientious objectors to abortion to pay yet another tax for abortion. Many Californians oppose using their taxpayer monies to fund abortion.*
15. Are there other elected officials or organizations that have declined support? If so, why? *There were 19 Republicans who voted against AB 2134 on the Assembly Floor. There were six legislators who did not record a vote.*

Section III: Requested Actions in Support

If endorsed by DPCCC, how best can the DPCCC support this proposal? (The DPCCC Issues Committee will let you know how much support we can offer.)

- X Use DPCCC's name/logo on fact sheets, endorsee list*
- X Post information on DPCCC website*
- ☐ *Written/oral testimony*
- X Inform Contra Costa County Elected Delegation*
- X Inform Endorsed Democratic Local Elected Officials*
- X Action Alerts to members*
- ☐ *Letters to the editor*
- ☐ *Send to CADEM Legislation Committee*
- ☐ *Other_____*

Endorsements will be shared on the DPCCC website and in other advocacy venues

If you have any questions, need additional assistance, or require ADA accommodations, please let us know by email at issues@contracostadems.com. You can also reach us by phone or text at (206) 619-5030. All information and communications are confidential.

*For more information on DPCCC's Issues Committee, visit:
<https://www.contracostadems.com/leadership>*

March 2022, Subject to final approval by Rules Committee