

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2016
AMENDED IN SENATE JANUARY 12, 2016
AMENDED IN SENATE JANUARY 6, 2016

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 19

Introduced by Senator Jackson

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Atkins and Cristina Garcia)
(*Coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chiu, Chu, Cooper, Dababneh, Daly, Dodd, Frazier, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Low, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, O'Donnell, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Weber, Williams, and Wood*)

August 26, 2015

Senate Joint Resolution No. 19—Relative to women's reproductive health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 19, as amended, Jackson. Women's reproductive health.

This measure would request the President and the Congress of the United States to express their support for access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including the services provided by Planned Parenthood, and to oppose efforts to eliminate federal funding for Planned Parenthood.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, January 22, 2016, marks the anniversary of the
- 2 United States Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade*,
- 3 which acknowledged that every woman has a fundamental right

1 to control her own reproductive decisions and decide whether to
2 end or continue a pregnancy, and is an occasion that deserves
3 recognition; and

4 WHEREAS, The 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, making access
5 to abortion safe and legal, has greatly improved the health of
6 women and families; and

7 WHEREAS, Roe v. Wade has been the cornerstone of women's
8 remarkable strides toward equality in the past four decades, and
9 reproductive freedom is critical to a woman's ability to participate
10 fully in the social, political, and economic life of the community;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, California is committed to protecting the public
13 health and welfare of all its residents, and recognizes that access
14 to reproductive health services, including family planning and
15 prenatal care, supports individuals and their families by ensuring
16 that babies are planned, wanted, and healthy; and

17 WHEREAS, California recognizes the importance of Planned
18 Parenthood as one of California's largest providers of women's
19 preventive and reproductive health care services, operating 115
20 community-based health centers across the state, which provide
21 more than 1.6 million patient visits a year; and

22 WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood provides comprehensive health
23 care services to women and men, which may include well-woman
24 examinations, birth control, testing and treatment of sexually
25 transmitted infections and HIV, pregnancy tests, life-saving cancer
26 screenings, sex education, prenatal care, primary care services,
27 and abortion services; and

28 WHEREAS, Nationwide, during 4.6 million health center visits
29 in 2013, Planned Parenthood provided services, including nearly
30 400,000 Pap smear tests, 500,000 breast examinations, 1.1 million
31 pregnancy tests, 3.6 million provisions of birth control information
32 and services, and 4.5 million tests and treatments for sexually
33 transmitted illnesses (including HIV), to approximately 2.7 million
34 patients, almost 80 percent of whom were living with incomes at
35 or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level; and

36 WHEREAS, By providing millions of women with access to
37 contraceptive services, public funding of Planned Parenthood helps
38 women to avoid an estimated 516,000 unplanned pregnancies each
39 year nationwide; and

1 WHEREAS, A sudden defunding of Planned Parenthood’s health
2 centers by federal or state governments would put patients across
3 California, particularly members of underserved communities, at
4 a significant disadvantage relating to their general health care
5 because Planned Parenthood is often the only source of health care
6 services for so many Californians; and

7 WHEREAS, Violence against abortion providers and laws that
8 create barriers to abortion endanger the lives of both men and
9 women; and

10 WHEREAS, Reports have found that threats of harassment,
11 intimidation, and violence against women’s health clinics have
12 doubled since 2010, and as recently as November 27, 2015, a
13 Planned Parenthood clinic was the target of a heinous act of
14 domestic terrorism which resulted in the deaths of three people
15 and nonfatal injuries to nine others; and

16 WHEREAS, The State of California stands in strong support of
17 *Roe v. Wade* and the work of Planned Parenthood, and of women’s
18 reproductive health, and respects the principle that each woman
19 has a fundamental right to make decisions regarding her pregnancy;
20 now, therefore, be it

21 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
22 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature urges the President of the
23 United States and Congress to express their support for access to
24 comprehensive reproductive health care, including the services
25 provided by Planned Parenthood and a woman’s fundamental right
26 to control her own reproductive decisions, and to strongly oppose
27 efforts to eliminate federal funding for Planned Parenthood; and
28 be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
30 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
31 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
32 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
33 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
34 States.

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