

AB-1666

Protecting Those Seeking Abortions in California and their Providers from State Lawsuits

Position: Support

Strengthen Legal Protections for Non-Residents

This bill would prohibit other state laws that criminalize abortion to be used as justification for a California state court lawsuit against a person or entity that receives or seeks, performs, or induces, or aids or abets the performance of an abortion, or who attempts or intends to engage in those actions. Texas and other states have very broad definitions for “aid and abet”, making virtually anyone even considering helping someone who wants an abortion subject to legal action.

Current law must be changed so that no person or entity could be sued in California state court on the grounds of another state’s laws restricting abortion, otherwise providers and their patients seeking abortion would be subject to lawsuits for their actions.

Not only would this bill prevent filing a lawsuit about an abortion, but it would also prohibit the enforcement of a judgment rendered under an out-of-state “fetal heartbeat” law obtained in a non-California court. This protects providers from financial ruin from lawsuits.

Make California a Safe Haven for Reproductive Healthcare

States restricting abortions are also targeting providers and patients with hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines. Without sufficient protection, providers in California could be financially ruined for providing legal abortion care.

The right to an abortion is enshrined in the California constitution. We urge the legislature to pass this bill to ensure our state is a safe haven for millions of Americans seeking reproductive healthcare who are being denied their fundamental right to bodily autonomy in their home state.