



SB-24 Opposition Testimony – Assembly Committee on Higher Education

My name is Bernadette Tasy. I just graduated with my MA from Fresno State, and I am the president of Fresno Pro-Life Future. I strongly oppose this bill.

I would like to give 3 of my top reasons why I believe this bill contradicts itself:

1. This is supposed to be about access, but the bill still places the mandate on ALL public universities, even though many schools have an abortion pill provider within just a few miles of the campuses. Yet there has been no discussion of an exemption for schools like these.
2. Estimates for time taken to travel to the abortion pill provider are based on public transportation, taking much more time than an Uber. Of course, an Uber has a small charge, but is much faster than the 30-minute bus route estimate presented by proponents of the bill. Last year, the author stated that this Uber cost would be more of a burden. However, for one thing, if you're on Medi-Cal, transportation services are provided for free AND the CSU and UC systems both stated in Appropriations committee analyses both last year and this year that the funds for SB-24 are insufficient (by the millions) and that the cost would likely fall to the students. So, although this bill should be saving us from spending money on an Uber, it will actually cost us more in our mandatory student fees.
3. Dr. Daniel Grossman, who has testified in support of this bill several times, co-authored an article stating that the failure rate of these pills is between 3 and over 15%. This number varies, depending on how far along the woman is in her pregnancy. If all of the students take the pills in the 6th week of pregnancy, there might be a 3% fail rate, but if they're in the 9th week of pregnancy, it might be over 15%. And if we go with the author's estimate of 500 students using this service each month, this means that anywhere between 15-75 girls would need a follow-up surgical abortion each month.

Several pro-choice individuals have signed our petition against the bill and our own former, pro-choice Governor Brown, vetoed this bill because it is irresponsible and unnecessary.

There are more questions than answers regarding this bill – and because of that, I respectfully ask for your no vote or abstain from voting. Thank you.

Bernadette Tasy

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***Bernadette Tasy, President of Fresno Pro-Life Future
Further Comment on SB-24***

My friends and I have been fighting this bill for over a year and a half – it’s time we bury this thing.

Our academic institutions are no place to be handing out abortion drugs, so why even bring this idea of campus abortions to the table? Well, abortion numbers in California have dropped. Women are choosing life, and the abortion industry is not happy. Abortion facilities are already located very close to college campuses – this is no secret – over 40% of abortions are done on college-age women. WE are the target. The college student that just found out that she’s placed with an unplanned pregnancy, scared she will fall behind in classes, and convinced that raising a child during school is impossible. The abortion industry preys on the vulnerable.

My good friend Jess was the perfect target for the abortion industry. After visiting a pro-life display we had out on campus at Fresno State one day, where we gave her a 12-week human fetal model, Jess found herself faced with an unplanned pregnancy. She found herself in front of a Planned Parenthood counselor, who tried to convince her that abortion was her only option. But she saw the fetal model we gave her, chose life, and is now a Students for Life officer at Fresno State, dedicated to helping other pregnant and parenting students on campus. THAT is empowerment and THAT is the kind of support our pregnant students need.

It’s hard to condense all of SB-24’s main issues into a short speech because there are so many problems – so many, that even pro-choice individuals have signed our petition against it. That even our former, pro-choice Governor Brown, vetoed the bill because it is irresponsible and unnecessary.

We know that there is an abortion pill provider very close to each of the campuses. We know that a measly \$200,000 per campus is not going to fund the equipment, the workers, the drugs, and all of the other aspects of this new “program”—the CSU and UC said it themselves – they’re probably going to raise student fees to fund this bill. That’s a bit ironic, considering the fact that putting this program on campus was supposed to save us money.

This bill claims that abortion is a constitutional right, and they’re pretty proud to state that – however, they continuously try to chip at the religious liberty and free speech rights of the health center staff who do not want to participate in an abortion. Last year, the author of the bill said that those workers quote “don’t have to work there.” We know we can do better than that.

There are more questions than answers about this bill – why should the legislature even vote on a bill that has so many unanswered questions? Why should they even consider a bill that is unbelievably expensive and not necessary (in the words of our former governor)? No one can know how the vote will turn out today. But we have a long list of concerns that we are going to share with our legislators. We only have a total of 4 minutes to speak, can you believe that? We hope our *representatives* will listen to our side of the story because we know we can do better than SB-24.