



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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July 19, 2024

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 5210  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **ASSEMBLY BILL 2099 (BAUER-KAHAN and McCARTY) SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Bauer-Kahan:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 2099.

As a long-standing advocate for reproductive rights, I have consistently championed women's right to choose throughout my career. In 2022 I supported AB 1242, which protects both abortion providers and patients from out-of-state legal action. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has shown similar dedication, as evidenced by their recent unanimous motion to provide women access to reproductive services at L.A. County facilities, and their earlier support for Senate Bill 1245, which established a reproductive health-care pilot project in the county. These actions, taken in response to increasing restrictions in other states, underscore Los Angeles County's commitment to being a safe haven for reproductive rights and expanding access to abortion care, regardless of residency. By supporting measures like AB 2099, AB 1242, SB 1245, and initiatives to assist out-of-state residents seeking care, we continue to protect these essential rights for all women and address barriers to accessing abortion care in California.

More specifically, AB 2099 increases the penalties for violations of the California Freedom of Access to Clinics and Church Entrances (FACCE) Act.

In 2001, California enacted the California FACCE Act, mirroring the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act. California's FACCE Act provides state criminal and civil penalties for interference with rights to reproductive health services and religious worship.

In 2021 AB 1356 (Bauer-Kahan) was enacted and provided more protections for those seeking reproductive healthcare assistance and those who provide those services. AB

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1356 created new crimes under FACCE Act directed at videotaping, photographing, or recording patients or providers within 100 feet of the facility (i.e., the "buffer" zone) or disclosing or distributing those images. It also increased misdemeanor penalties for violations of the FACCE Act and expanded online privacy laws and peace officer trainings relative to anti-reproduction-rights offenses.

The enactment of "buffer zones" around reproductive health care facilities was designed to protect reproductive health care services patients and providers from being harassed, photographed, or threatened just for walking in and out of a reproductive health care facility.

Since the overturning of *Roe vs. Wade*, reproductive health clinics like Planned Parenthood have become the very last line for women seeking critical reproductive health care. These vulnerable patients and providers are facing an onslaught of organized harassment, being attacked online and in person.

Current penalties are insufficient to deter extremist anti-abortion groups from attacking clinics and providers. AB 2099 updates our state penalties to protect the essential right to reproductive healthcare.

For this reason, our Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 2099.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,



GEORGE GASCÓN  
District Attorney

cc: Assembly Member McCarty