



THE ISSUE: SB 245 Health care coverage: abortion services: cost sharing. (Gonzalez, D).

SB 245 would remove the deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or any other cost-sharing requirement for all abortion and abortion-related services starting January 14, 2021. **(OPPOSE)**

“Because it should be treated as a person from conception, the embryo must be defended in its integrity, cared for, and healed like every other human being.”

- CCC (2323)

HISTORY & BACKGROUND

Under current law, the Reproductive Privacy Act, prohibits the state from denying or interfering with a person’s right to choose or obtain an abortion prior to viability of the fetus, or when the abortion is necessary to protect the life or health of the person.

In addition, under the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, the Department of Managed Health Care requires to license and regulate health care service plans and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Existing law also requires the Department of Insurance to regulate health insurers. Existing law requires group and individual health care service plan contracts and disability insurance policies to cover contraceptives, without cost sharing, as specified.

CHURCH TEACHING

In the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, legalized abortion is referred as having a destructive effect on our society. Few other actions legalized by our public policy as profoundly undermine our values as a people or upset the moral compass by which we live. In the Didache (*The Teaching of the Apostles*), 2,2, written toward the end of the first century and revered as an honored guide for Christian life, we read, “You shall not kill the embryo by abortion.”

TALKING POINTS

- ▶ We are as always opposed to abortion since it takes the life of an innocent human being. Sadly, women may be faced at times with many life-changing and challenging decisions in their journey through life. But **in the name of “choice” inviting them to end the life of their unborn child is not a compassionate or morally responsible choice.**
- ▶ **SB 245 will make only one “choice” more accessible for women, particularly those who are challenged economically or have a less than adequate health plan.** Without public support, California already funds abortions and contraceptives through tax-payer money making it incredibly easy for a mother to find abortion access, while pre-natal care and post-natal services continue to have significant co-pays and deductible costs. Reducing the co-pay for abortions, subtly encourages women, usually poorer ones, to choose abortion in the absence of necessary support to bring their child to birth.
- ▶ If this bill is truly about providing “choices” for women and increasing access, the state should require all health plans to fund life-affirming services in a patient’s health care plan. **Offering state-funded abortions as the easiest alternative to pregnancy undermines the ability of the state to promote the value of diversity and true empowerment of women.**