

March 30, 2026

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
California State Assembly
1021 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

On behalf of tens of thousands of constituents, allied organizations, and more than 2,000 churches across California, California Family Council strongly **opposes** AB 1973.

AB 1973 would expand authority to perform abortions beyond the first trimester to nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, and physician assistants, non-physician providers who lack the surgical training that second- and third-trimester procedures demand. It would also shield out-of-state abortion providers from professional discipline. This bill raises urgent concerns about patient safety, medical ethics, the protection of unborn life, and professional accountability.

Second- and Third-Trimester Abortions Carry Dramatically Elevated Maternal Risks

Later abortions are demonstrably more dangerous than first-trimester procedures. Research shows the risk of maternal death increases by approximately 38 percent for each additional week beyond eight weeks gestation.¹ The overall death rate from abortion stands at roughly 0.7 per 100,000 procedures, but rises to 6.7 per 100,000 for late-term procedures, nearly ten times higher.¹ Relative mortality risk is 14.7 times higher at 13–15 weeks and 29.5 times higher at 16–20 weeks compared to early procedures.¹ Authorizing non-physicians to perform these high-risk surgeries exposes California women to avoidable harm.

The dominant second-trimester method is Dilation and Evacuation (D&E), used in approximately 95 percent of abortions once the unborn child is fully formed.¹ This procedure requires the abortionist to manually dismember the child, removing limbs, sections of the torso, and finally crushing and extracting the skull.¹ Scientific evidence indicates that unborn children can experience pain as early as 10–14 weeks gestation, with measurable stress hormone surges, increased heart rate, and neurological pain responses.¹ Induction abortions performed later carry additional documented risks to the mother, including uterine rupture and hemorrhage.² California should not be expanding, let alone delegating, these procedures to less-trained providers.

Second- and third-trimester abortions are complex surgical interventions requiring advanced obstetric and surgical competency. Nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, and physician assistants are not trained in the full scope of complications these procedures can produce, including uterine perforation, bowel injury, and sepsis. Allowing these providers to perform procedures that even experienced OB-GYNs approach with caution represents a dangerous lowering of the standard of care.

Abortions Left Unaccountable

AB 1973 creates an unprecedented lack of accountability for abortion providers. The bill prohibits California's medical boards from denying licensure or disciplining physicians who have been disciplined, or even convicted, for abortion-related actions in other states. In effect, California would become a legal sanctuary for abortion providers, regardless of their prior record, so long as their conduct involved abortion.

No other area of medicine is treated this way. A physician disciplined in another state for misconduct in virtually any other procedure would face serious scrutiny. But under AB 1973, abortion is elevated above all other medical practices—insulated from oversight, shielded from consequences, and removed from the normal standards of professional accountability.

Finally, beyond the policy concerns, this bill reflects a broader moral failure. Scripture reminds us, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jeremiah 1:5, ESV). Every human life, born and unborn, has inherent dignity and worth. Laws like AB 1973 move us further away from recognizing that truth, and further toward a culture that treats human life as disposable.

California should be leading in compassionate, life-affirming care that supports both mothers and their children. Instead, AB 1973 expands abortion, lowers standards, and removes accountability, all at the expense of the most vulnerable among us.

For these reasons, California Family Council respectfully **opposes** AB 1973.

Respectfully,



Greg Burt
Vice President
California Family Council

References

- ¹ American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG), "The Harms of Abortion After 15 Weeks: The Medical Perspective," AAPLOG Fact Sheet, 2022. <https://aaplog.org>
- ² Bixby Center / Live Action, "Late-Term Abortions Describe Dangers of Induction Abortion," Live Action News, 2023. <https://www.liveaction.org/news/late-term-abortionist-dangers-induction-abortion>