

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Rebecca Bauer-Kahan

DISTRICT 16

AB 67 – Enforcement of Abortion Protections

Summary

AB 67 authorizes the Attorney General's office to enforce the Reproductive Privacy Act.

Background

The right to access healthcare is enshrined in our state's values. California is one of the state's leading the example on how to ensure access is given to those seeking reproductive healthcare. Although California has passed numerous pieces of legislation extending protections for abortions within the state, we are still seeing gaps in necessary care.

Since the overturning of Roe V Wade, we have witnessed localities and bad faith actors interfering with the opening of reproductive health clinics. In the City of Beverly Hills¹, officials have delayed permitting approvals making it harder for their constituents to achieve healthcare access. Likewise, the City of Fontana² has placed an explicit moratorium on a clinic's construction and opening.

In 2002, California enacted the Reproductive Privacy Act (RPA), with the purpose of prohibiting the state from denying or interfering with a person's access to abortion prior to viability of the fetus. Currently, there is no mechanism for the Attorney General to enforce the RPA.

For now, only the impacted may bring a lawsuit under the RPA (the individuals themselves). Unfortunately, these individuals typically do not have the time or resources to bring litigation. In contrast, the Attorney General's office has the staff and initiative to properly enforce the RPA.

Problem

Access to reproductive care is currently under attack, with some localities blocking the right to basic and fundamental healthcare.

The state's top law enforcement agency currently cannot bring any direct litigation for those local entities including in basic healthcare.

What this bill does

AB 67 gives explicit statutory authority to the Attorney General to enforce and determine penalties for any local government entity who is in violation of the RPA. The civil penalties are not exceed \$25,000 for the offenses brought forth by the Attorney General.

Furthermore, the Attorney General may bring cases on behalf of the State of California against any county, city, town, municipal corporation, and quasi-municipal corporation. This bill will directly address state entities that target either individuals or abortion providers from obstructing a person's right to an abortion.

Support

Attorney General Rob Bonta (Sponsor)
California Nurse Midwives Association

Contact

Jamie Velasco
Legislative Aide
Jamie.Velasco@asm.ca.gov
(916)319-2016

¹ Abortion rights: Beverly Hills is showing CA limits - CalMatters

² Planned Parenthood sues Fontana over abortion access - Los Angeles Times (latimes.com)