



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: 6/4/2013
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: NA
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Legislative Program Committee, 568.3400
Director(s)
Contact Info: Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, 568-3400

SUBJECT: Support for AB 154 (Atkins) – Expanded Scope of Practice

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Consider taking a position of support on Assembly Bill (AB) 154 (as amended), and
- B. Direct staff to forward a letter of support to members of the legislature including, but not limited to, the county legislative delegation, appropriate committee chairs and the Governor.

Summary Text:

The majority of Legislative Program Committee voted to request that the Board of Supervisors consider a support position on Assembly Bill (AB) 154, as amended at the Legislative Program Committee Meeting on May 6, 2013. (See Attachment A) A proposed letter of support to the County's legislative delegation is attached. (Attachment B)

Background:

Assembly Bill 154 authorizes a nurse practitioner (NP), certified nurse midwife (CNM), and physician assistant (PA) to perform abortion by medication or aspiration techniques in the first trimester of pregnancy upon completion of training, as specified. This bill intends to address the current shortage of health care professionals able to provide early abortion care in California.

A multi-year study conducted by The University of California's San Francisco (UCSF) Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health and published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, under a state waiver, evaluated the providers contemplated by this bill in providing aspiration abortion. Over the five years of the study, almost 8,000 patients were provided care by nurse practitioners (NP), certified nurse midwives (CNM) or physician assistants (PA) and over 6,000 patients were provided care by a physician. The results of the study show comparable levels of complications and found these providers to be safe and qualified.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, 52% of California counties lack an abortion provider. Lack of access causes women to delay termination into the second or even third trimesters. It also forces rural women to travel long distances, in the case of some rural areas, up to five hours, which may cause women to have to raise money to cover these travel costs. This bill helps to ensure women receive safe, early care and will help provide comprehensive and coordinated reproductive health care in areas such as miscarriage management, post-abortion follow-up, and contraception. The California Medical Association (CMA) is supporting passage of AB 154.

AB 154 was heard and passed by the Assembly Committee on Business, Professions and Consumer Protection (April 9, 2013), as well as, the Assembly Committee on Health (April 29, 2013). Since May, AB 154 has been in the Appropriation Committee awaiting further action.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Fiscal or facility impacts are not anticipated as a result of support for Assembly Bill 154.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Assembly Bill 154 (Atkins)

Attachment B – Proposed Letter of Support

Authored by:

Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the County Executive Officer

CC: