



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CALIFORNIA

April 2, 2013

The Honorable Richard Gordon, Chair, and Members
Committee on Business, Professions and Consumer Protection
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

Re: AB 154 (Atkins)—SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gordon and Members of the Committee:

The League of Women Voters of California supports AB 154 (Atkins). This bill improves women's access to abortion providers by allowing the nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and physicians assistants that women already know and use for their health care to provide early pregnancy abortions.

The League has long supported a woman's constitutional right of privacy to make reproductive choices and to have access to a basic level of health care that includes all aspects of family planning. The right to make reproductive choices is empty of content if a woman is unable to obtain the services she chooses because of lack of available doctors or service providers in her city or county.

AB 154 is necessary. Almost half of the counties in this state lack an accessible abortion provider. This creates barriers to access in both rural and urban areas by forcing women either to incur the cost of travel and overnight stays due to the distance or to face long delays in obtaining medical appointments with the few providers that exist in their counties of residence. The inability to access prompt, effective abortion services can force women to delay abortion until more advanced stages of pregnancy, resulting in a more complicated procedure.

Authorizing trained mid level health professionals to provide early abortions is safe and improves care for women. A pilot project conducted by UCSF has shown that trained health professionals can safely provide early abortions. The project also showed that the procedure is safe whether performed by MDs or by trained, qualified mid level health professionals. These professionals already provide medication abortions. AB 154 allows women access to an alternative procedure during the first trimester.

For these reasons, the League of Women Voters of California urges your "aye" vote on AB 154.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Waggoner
President

1107 9th Street
Suite 300
Sacramento, CA
95814-3608

916 442.7215
888 870.8683
916 442.7362 fax

lwvc@lwvc.org
www.lwvc.org
www.smartvoter.org
www.easyvoter.org

cc: Assembly Member Toni Atkins