

1 [Supporting California State Senate Bill No. 464 (Mitchell) - California Dignity in Pregnancy
and Childbirth Act of 2019

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill No. 464, the California Dignity in**
4 **Pregnancy and Childbirth Act of 2019, introduced by Senator Holly Mitchell, which**
5 **would require maternal healthcare providers to complete implicit bias training; require**
6 **hospitals to provide patients with information on how to file a discrimination**
7 **complaint; and would require the California Department of Public Health to track and**
8 **publish data on maternal death and morbidity, disaggregated by county, facility, and**
9 **racial and ethnic identity.**

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11 WHEREAS, The United States has among the worst maternal mortality rates in the
12 developed world; and

13 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that
14 approximately 700 women die every year in the United States as a result of pregnancy or
15 delivery complications, and the World Health Organization estimates the number to be closer
16 to 1,200; and

17 WHEREAS, Maternal morbidity rates disproportionately impact American born Black
18 women and Latina women born outside the United States; and

19 WHEREAS, A study published in the journal of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology
20 found that Black women are three to four times more likely to die in a pregnancy-related death
21 than white women, and identifies quality of health care as a major contributing factor to this
22 disparity; and

23 WHEREAS, The California Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (CA-PAMR)
24 published a report that while Black women make up only 5 percent of the state's birthing
25 population, they account for more than 20 percent of pregnancy-related deaths; and

1 WHEREAS, Black women from middle and high income backgrounds have higher
2 maternal morbidity rates than white women living in poverty; and

3 WHEREAS, Existing law requires the California Department of Public Health to
4 maintain a program of maternal and child health, which may include, among other things,
5 facilitating services directed toward reducing infant mortality and improving the health of
6 mothers and children; and

7 WHEREAS, Existing law requires the Office of Health Equity within the Department of
8 Public Health to serve as a resource for ensuring that programs collect and keep data and
9 information regarding ethnic and racial health statistics, and to provide strategies and
10 programs that address multicultural health issues, including, but not limited to, infant and
11 maternal mortality; and

12 WHEREAS, The University of Virginia released a study identifying implicit bias as a
13 contributing factor to poor maternal health outcomes for Black women; and

14 WHEREAS, California State Senate Bill No. 464 (SB 464) aims to reduce the effects of
15 implicit bias in pregnancy, childbirth, and postnatal care so that all women are treated with
16 dignity and respect by their healthcare providers; and

17 WHEREAS, SB 464 would make legislative findings relating to implicit bias and racial
18 disparities in maternal mortality rates; and

19 WHEREAS, SB 464 would require hospitals that provide perinatal care, alternative birth
20 centers, and primary clinics that provide services as an alternative birth center, to implement
21 an evidence-based implicit bias training program for all health care providers involved in
22 perinatal care of patients within those facilities; and

23 WHEREAS, The goal of implicit bias trainings is to limit the impact of bias on maternal
24 health by hosting important discussions on race, historical and contemporary oppression of
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1 minority communities, and health inequities that result in a higher mortality rates for Black
2 women; and

3 WHEREAS, SB 464 would require health care providers to complete an initial basic
4 implicit bias training through the program and a refresher course every 2 years thereafter, or
5 on a more frequent basis if deemed necessary by the facility; and

6 WHEREAS, existing law requires that each death be registered with the local registrar
7 of births and deaths in the district in which the death was officially pronounced or the body
8 was found; and

9 WHEREAS, Existing law sets forth the persons responsible for completing the
10 certificate of death and requires certain medical and health content on the certificate, including
11 information indicating whether the decedent was pregnant at the time of death or within the
12 year prior to the death, if known; and

13 WHEREAS, SB 464 would require the Department of Public Health to track and publish
14 data on maternal death and severe morbidity, disaggregated by county, facility, and racial and
15 ethnic identity; and

16 WHEREAS, Existing law requires hospitals to provide specified information regarding
17 patient's rights to each patient upon admission or as soon as reasonably possible, including,
18 among other things, information about the right to be informed of continuing health care
19 requirements following discharge from the hospital and makes violations of these
20 requirements a crime; and

21 WHEREAS, Patients have the right to be free of discrimination on the basis of race,
22 color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, medical condition, genetic information,
23 marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual-orientation, citizenship,
24 primary language, or immigration status; and

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1 WHEREAS, SB 464 would require hospitals to additionally provide patients with
2 information on how to file a discrimination complaint with the hospital as well as state entities
3 if the patient feels they were discriminated against on the basis of race, gender, age, class,
4 sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, language proficiency, nationality, immigration
5 status, gender expression, or religion; and

6 WHEREAS, SB 464 is already co-sponsored by ACT for Women and Girls, Black
7 Women for Wellness, Western Center on Law & Poverty, and NARAL Pro-Choice California;
8 now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors endorses SB 464, also
10 known as the California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act, introduced by Sen. Holly
11 Mitchell (D-Los Angeles) and co-authored by Assembly Member Dr. Shirley Weber (D-San
12 Diego); and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board be directed to send a copy of this
14 resolution to the offices of California State Senator Holly Mitchell; California State Assembly
15 Member Shirley Weber; the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee; and Governor
16 Gavin Newsom.

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