California Campus Healthcare Policy

Michelle Buenrostro · Maria Ault · Robert N. Rust

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Robert N. Rust
What concerns did you raise? And how should policymakers, whether it be in California or in Pennsylvania, balance the contending positions of pro versus anti-abortion?

Michelle Buenrostro
Yeah, so I have made a lot of noise about Assembly Bill 2540, which essentially forces all California community colleges to dispense abortion pills or refer to a place that does. And our public universities, University of California and California State University, already provide abortions. So we already do have some data on what a program like this looks like. What they expected was that roughly 3,800 to 6,200 students annually would be using these services, and they found that only 646 students were obtaining the abortion pill on campus.

Michelle Buenrostro
And this is because California has very liberal abortion laws, and we have 180 brick-and-mortar abortion clinics. You can get a pharmacy-dispensed abortion, or you can get it mailed to you without restrictions. And so my argument against this is that this is a project that's going to cost millions of dollars, one, to set up those campus health centers to be able to dispense abortion medications, but also ongoing expenses to keep them stocked, to keep staff on board.

Michelle Buenrostro
And I feel like this money could better be used to support student parents because at the same time, we are seeing dwindling support for us. For example, day cares are being shut down. At UCLA, they found out in August that their campus day care was going to get shut down in a market where day care can cost up to $3,000 a month.

Michelle Buenrostro
And so I just feel like given the data that we already have, that we should be supporting parents in all pregnancy outcomes. For example, having heavier advertisement of abortion services on campus is emphasized, but they never talk about advertising prenatal care to students or adoption services.

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