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RONALD REAGAN AND THE ABORTION LAW

Since becoming a candidate for President, Mr. Reagan has advocated an amendment to the United States Constitution to prohibit abortions.

On June 15, 1967, as Governor of California, Mr. Reagan signed into law a legislative bill known as the Therapeutic Abortion Act. Prior to that time, California law had prohibited abortions except when necessary to save the mother's life.

The bill signed by Governor Reagan had been strenuously opposed during its course through the Legislature by all anti-abortion groups in California including the Catholic church.

The bill required California hospitals to report abortions performed to the California Department of Health, headed by Reagan appointees. Almost immediately, the number of abortions performed in California began to increase rapidly. In 1967, there were 518 abortions. In 1972, five years later, before the U.S. Supreme Court decision liberalizing abortions, 138,584 abortions were performed in California. During the seven years of the Reagan administration following the signing of the bill, 610,000 abortions were performed in California hospitals.

Every year following the signing of the bill, Governor Reagan signed legislation triggering the payment of many millions of taxpayers' money for the performance of these abortions through the Medi-Cal program. By 1974, forty-two percent of hospital-performed abortions were paid for by Medi-Cal.

Former Governor Reagan now says he was misled by California doctors when he signed the bill. This raises some important questions. In what way was he misled? Did seven years pass before he learned that he had been misled?

Appendix V

Number of Abortions Performed in California, 1967-74^{/a}

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Financed By Medi-Cal</u>	
		<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>
1967	518	N/A	N/A
1968	5,018	7.8%	391
1969	15,339	19.5	2,991
1970	65,369	35.8	23,402
1971	116,749	38.5	44,948
1972	138,584	32.1	44,485
1973	131,870 ^{/b}	32.1	42,330
1974	135,762 ^{/b}	42.0	57,020

*paid for
with tax money.*

^{/a} Source: California Department of Health

^{/b} Does not include abortions performed in private physicians' offices.

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Financed by Medi-Cal</u>	
		<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>
1975	142,067	43.2	61,373

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

STREET

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814



February 26, 1976

Honorable Robert S. Stevens
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4031
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Stevens:

This is in response to questions raised by Mike Carrington in your office with regard to the statistical tables on abortions which we sent you February 6, 1976.

1. In reference to Table 1, footnote (a), are abortions performed only in hospitals? If not, when did it become legal to perform abortions in private physicians' offices?

A 1967 California law restricted the performance of abortions to accredited hospitals. In January 1973, a U.S. Supreme Court Decision allowed early stage abortions (within the first twelve weeks of pregnancy) to be performed in a physician's office and required them to be performed by a licensed physician. The court decision provided that the states may restrict abortions to certain facilities in the second trimester, and in the third trimester may deny abortions altogether.

No records are available on the number of abortions performed in private physicians' offices. It should be noted that the hospitals report abortions on a voluntary basis only.

2. How much tax money is being spent on abortions in California?

Medi-Cal claims paid for abortions (including spontaneous abortions) are as follows:

Fiscal Year 1972-73	\$19,607,064
Fiscal Year 1973-74	\$19,651,940
Fiscal Year 1974-75	\$25,452,007

These figures do not include Prepaid Health Plans. San Joaquin Foundation inpatient hospital data is excluded from September 1974 - June 1975 because of reporting problems. Expenditures for abortions are not available for years previous to Fiscal Year 1972-73.

*I included
to Senator's
d. and
not*

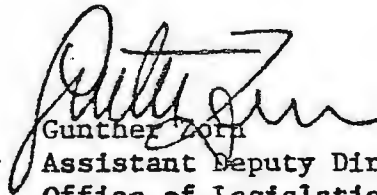
3. Are expenditures for abortions accounted for in the budget?

Yes. Although there is no identifiable amount listed in the budget for abortions, costs for abortions are included in estimates for family planning which account for part of the Medi-Cal Benefits budget figure (as shown in Item 278 under Medi-Cal Benefits in the Fiscal Year 1975-76 budget). The State can claim 90 percent federal reimbursement for almost all family planning services.

The budget for Fiscal Year 1975-76 includes approximately \$33.4 million for family planning of which an estimated \$27.3 million is for abortion. Family planning budget figures are not available for years previous to Fiscal Year 1975-76. For Fiscal Year 1976-77 the family planning budget is approximately \$37.7 million of which an estimated \$30.4 million is for abortion.

We hope this information serves your needs. Please contact Ellen Eatough at 322-2740 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Gunther Zorn
Assistant Deputy Director
Office of Legislation

cc: Mike Carrington