



March 26, 2024

The Honorable Lori Wilson  
California State Assembly District 11  
1021 O Street, Suite 8110  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Akilah Weber, M.D.  
California State Assembly District 79  
1021 O Street, Suite 4130  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 2319 (Wilson, Weber) California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act - Support**

Dear Assemblymembers Wilson & Weber,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP), I write to you in support of AB 2319, which seeks to reduce the highly concerning and disproportionate maternal mortality rate experienced by pregnant persons of color by ensuring the successful implementation of SB 464 (Mitchell), the California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act of 2019.

According to a recent study conducted by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), women of color, in particular Black women, die of pregnancy-related complications at a rate much higher than that of white women - a disparity prevalent across income levels. Evidence suggests that implicit bias, whether conscious or unconscious, among healthcare providers plays a significant role in creating this disparity. To address this, the Legislature wisely passed SB 464 (Mitchell, 2019) which, after being signed by the Governor, established evidence-based implicit bias training for all health professionals who provide care during a patient's pregnancy, childbirth, and immediate postpartum period in covered facilities. While this effort provided a crucial step in supporting mothers of all backgrounds, a 2021 investigation by the Department of Justice indicated the clear need for more to be done.

To further address this glaring problem and build upon the work done through SB 464 (Mitchell, 2019), AB 2319 clarifies which facilities and employees are mandated to administer anti-bias trainings, establishes administrative penalties for noncompliant facilities while extending enforcement authority to both CDPH and the Attorney General, empowers CDPH to issue guidance and regulations, and expands both inclusivity and public transparency.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to support AB 2319.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yoder', is positioned above the printed name of the sender.

Paul Yoder  
Legislative Advocate

CC: Chair and Members, Assembly Health Committee