

September 19, 2006

Board of Supervisors
County of Marin
San Rafael, CA 94903

Subject: Request to Oppose Proposition 85, the "Parent's Right to Know and Child Protection Initiative," on the November 7, 2006 statewide ballot

Dear Board Members:

Recommendation: It is recommended that your Board oppose Proposition 85, the "Parent's Right to Know and Child Protection Initiative," on the November 7, 2006 statewide ballot. Adopt the attached resolution opposing the measure.

Summary: Proposition 85 – also known as the "Parent's Right to Know and Child Protection Initiative," would amend the California Constitution to require, with certain exceptions, a physician (or his or her representative) to notify the parent or legal guardian of a pregnant minor at least 48 hours before performing an abortion involving that minor.

The measure would apply to cases involving an "unemancipated" minor, defined as 'a female under the age of 18 who has not entered into a valid marriage, is not on active duty in the armed services of the United States, and has not been declared free from her parents' or guardians' custody and control under state law.'

Last year, your Board formally opposed Proposition 73, the "Parental Notification and Child Protection Act," on the November 8, 2005 statewide ballot; your Board's policy has been to oppose any restriction of a woman's constitutional right to choose with regard to decisions about her body and health.

It is recommended that your Board indicate its opposition to Proposition 85 on the November 7, 2006 statewide ballot by adoption of the attached resolution.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me or Dan Eilerman of my staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Hymel
County Administrator