

September 23, 2008

Board of Supervisors
County of Marin
San Rafael, CA 94903

Subject: Request to Oppose Proposition 4, "WAITING PERIOD AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION BEFORE TERMINATION OF MINOR'S PREGNANCY," on the November 4, 2008 statewide ballot

Dear Board Members:

Recommendation: It is recommended that your Board oppose Proposition 4, otherwise known as the "Child and Teen Safety and Stop Predators Act: Sarah's Law," on the November 4, 2008 statewide ballot. Adopt the attached resolution opposing the measure.

Summary: Proposition 4 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. This measure does not require a physician or a minor to obtain the consent of a parent or guardian.

In 2005 and 2006, your Board formally opposed Proposition 73 and Proposition 85, respectively. Proposition 4 is the third time that voters will have considered the issue of a parental notification/waiting period for abortion. The two previous initiatives were unsuccessful.

The Legislative Analyst's Office advises of "potential unknown net state costs of several million dollars annually for health and social services programs, court administration, and state health agency administration combined." A poll released by the Public Policy Institute of California August 27th found those in favor of parental notification with a slight lead, 47 percent to 44 percent.

Recommendation

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 4 on the November 4, 2008 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