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**Governor Newsom Signs Historic Reproductive Justice Shield Law: SB 345**

SACRAMENTO – Governor Newsom signed the monumental [SB 345](#) authored by Senator Nancy Skinner into law. SB 345 is co-sponsored by VALOR, ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, Black Women for Wellness Action Project, California Nurse-Midwives Association, Reproductive Freedom for All (formerly NARAL Pro-Choice California), and TEACH. SB 345 will expand the availability of reproductive and gender affirming healthcare by providing additional protections to providers who prescribe or dispense medication abortion or provide gender affirming care. It also offers greater protections to people seeking care and survivors of sexual violence.

Specifically, this law offers protections to:

1. California providers who prescribe medication abortion, which are safe and effective, for patients, regardless of where the patient is located;
2. Provide gender-affirming care and deliver that care regardless of where the patient is located; and
3. Sue in California against anyone who interferes with the healthcare provider’s right to provide care that is legal in California; and
4. Protect individuals seeking refuge from prosecution or imprisonment by another state that has criminalized abortion or gender-affirming care.

In signing these protections into state law, California is increasing access to critical abortion and gender-affirming care in communities across the country, further solidifying its priority to advance reproductive freedom. Notably, this bill increases protection for survivors of sexual and domestic violence and advocates alike, who are accessing needed healthcare services.

“SB 345 is a gamechanger for those of us working to support an individual’s right to power and control over their own lives. Thank you, Governor Newsom, for signing SB 345 into law, and thank you Senator Skinner for championing this important piece of legislation. VALOR will continue to engage in this work because we recognize that we cannot prevent and end sexual violence without working at the intersection of all types of violence and oppression. Until we see meaningful change, nationwide, in access to reproductive healthcare and gender affirming care, our work is not finished,” shared VALOR’s CEO, Sandra Henriquez.

SB 345 brings together reproductive justice, gender justice, violence prevention, and public health advocates alike to demand a state that creates a safety net for individuals seeking out care, providing care, and sets a national precedent that California will continue to advocate for the rights for all.