



NO on Proposition 4 Waiting Period and Parental Notification Act of 2008

Make no mistake—Proposition 4 puts teens at risk. That's why organizations like American Academy of Pediatrics, California District
California Nurses Association
California School Counselors Association
California Association of Family Physicians
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, District IX
California Teachers Association
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
. . . and parents throughout California urge you to VOTE NO on 4

Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives and we want our daughters to come to us if they become pregnant. But no law can mandate family communication.

If—for whatever reason—our daughters can't come to us, the most important thing is keeping them safe. New laws cannot force our teens to talk to us, but they may force them to take desperate measures.

The best way to protect our daughters is to begin talking with them about responsible, appropriate sexual behavior—including abstinence—from the time they are young and to foster an atmosphere that assures they can come to us.

In the real world, some teens just can't go to their parents. They fear being kicked out of their homes, beaten, or worse. And even teenagers who have good relationships with their parents might be afraid to talk about something as sensitive as pregnancy.

In other states with mandatory notification laws, some scared, pregnant teens who can't go to their parents choose an unsafe illegal, self-induced or back-alley abortion, go across the border or even contemplate suicide.

Prop. 4 puts our most vulnerable teenagers in harm's way, or forces teens into court. A frightened, pregnant teen doesn't need a judge; she needs a caring counselor and safe, quality medical care, without delay. Mandatory notification laws may sound good, but, in the real world, they just put teens in real danger.

Prop. 4 goes even further than the previous propositions that attempted to impose this change in the law. If a teen chooses to have an adult family member other than a parent notified, the physician would have to report the teen's parents to Child Protective Services for abuse. Given those circumstances, a teen may not seek care at all.

Californians said NO to this dangerous idea, twice before . . . but proponents have, once again, placed it on the ballot.

VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 4!