

Planned Parenthood Northern California

Clergy for Choice

To Whom It May Concern,

In the current health and culture debates, one perspective is woefully under-represented, namely that of clergy who are pro-family planning, pro-sex education, pro-choice, and pro-equal rights. Our purpose, as faith leaders, is to add our voices to the public discussion of women's health, religious, and reproductive freedoms. We are interfaith leaders who value all human life. We accept that religions differ about when life begins. We believe that human life is holy. That is why we believe in the right to choose to be a parent or not.

Our position on important issues:

Comprehensive Sexual Health Education: Schools should provide students medically accurate, age appropriate sex health education that includes information about abstinence, contraception, and disease prevention.

Family Planning: State and Federal funding should be available to family planning clinics for a full range of family planning services, including male and female birth control methods, STD/HIV testing and treatment, and pregnancy testing.

Insurance Coverage for Rx Contraceptives: Workplace medical benefits that cover prescription drugs should be required to cover all FDA approved methods of prescribed contraception.

Religious Based Refusal of Services: Hospitals, pharmacies or other health care entities should **not** be allowed to refuse services on the grounds of moral or religious objection.

Parental Notification for Contraceptives: To protect their safety, minors should **not** be required to notify their parents before they receive any form of contraception.

Parental Notification for Abortion: To protect their safety, minors should **not** be required to notify their parents before they have an abortion.

Abortion Access: Abortions should remain safe, legal, and accessible to **all** women.

Prenatal Care and Maternity Care: Maternal care before and after a baby is born should be a federally mandated essential health benefit.

Simply put, it is consistent with spiritual and religious values to support Planned Parenthood Northern California's mission to champion healthy communities and increase access to quality health care for all, by providing medical services, education, and advocacy.

Clergy for Choice, Planned Parenthood Northern California

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Rabbi Naomi Steinberg, Temple Beth El, Humboldt County
The Reverend Bryan Jessup, Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Humboldt County
The Reverend Eric Duff, Episcopal Minister, Humboldt County
Scott Sattler, MD, Universal Sufism, Garden of the Heart, Humboldt County
The Reverend Jeri Gray-Reneberg, ELCA Lutheran Pastor, Humboldt County
The Reverend Christine Trainor, Episcopal Church, San Francisco
The Reverend Maggi Henderson, Presbyterian Church, San Francisco
The Reverend Dr. Theresa Cho, Presbyterian Church, San Francisco
Rabbi Michael Lerner, Judaism, Alameda County
The Reverend Jeffrey S. Gaines, Christian/Presbyterian Church, San Francisco
Pastor Diana Bell-Kerr, Presbyterian, Sonoma County
The Reverend Christy Laborda Harris, Episcopal, Sonoma County
The Reverend Vanessa Stickler Glass, Episcopal Priest, Napa County
The Reverend Kate Sefton, Episcopal Deacon, Sonoma County
The Reverend Lindsey Bell-Kerr, United Methodist Church, Sonoma County
Rabbi Stephanie Kramer, Judaism, Sonoma County
The Reverend Harry R. Alagree, Episcopal, Sonoma County
The Reverend Stephen R. Shaver, Episcopal Priest, Sonoma County
The Reverend Molly Cate, Unity Church of the Redwoods, Humboldt County
Sandra Little, Deacon, Congregational Christian Church, Humboldt County
The Reverend, Anne S. Pierson, Episcopal Deacon, Humboldt County
Deacon Suzanne O’Dea, Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA, Humboldt County
Rev. Betsy Bruneau, Episcopal, Mendocino County
Deacon Josephine Borgeson, Episcopal, Sonoma County
Rev. Deborah Haffner Hubbard, Co-Pastor, Grace Good Shepherd Church, Humboldt County
Rev. Dr. Gabriele Schroeder, Advent Lutheran Church, ELCA, Sacramento County
Rev. Angelica Jayne Taggart, Spiritual Leader, Humboldt County
Rabbi George Gittleman, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County
The Reverend Cindi A. Knox, United Congregational Christian Church, Humboldt County
Rabbi Margaret Holub, Mendocino Coast Jewish Community, Mendocino County
April Sousa, CLM, United Methodist Church of the Joyful Healer, Humboldt County
Rabbi Meredith Cahn, Judaism, Sonoma County
Rev. Rod Seeger, Retired Lutheran Pastor, Marin County
The Very Reverend Hollinshead T. Knight, Episcopal, Marin County

If you would like to sign onto the letter or have questions, please contact
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