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HOUSE BILL 1677

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Thai and Nance

1 AN ACT Relating to access at public postsecondary educational  
2 institutions to medication abortion; and adding a new chapter to  
3 Title 28B RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares the  
6 following:

7 (1) Access to abortion is a human right, an integral part of  
8 essential health care, and vital for promoting public health.

9 (2) There are approximately 196,000 pregnancy capable students  
10 attending Washington's public institutions of higher education and  
11 many of these students need access to abortion services each year. A  
12 central mission of Washington's student health centers serving these  
13 institutions is to minimize the negative impact of health concerns on  
14 students' studies and to facilitate retention and graduation.

15 (3) Students seeking pregnancy termination face substantial  
16 travel, financial, and logistical barriers. Students must travel as  
17 far as 78 miles, or over four hours on public transit, round trip to  
18 the nearest abortion-providing facility, and the average wait time  
19 for an appointment is 10 days. The supreme court *Dobbs v. Jackson*  
20 *women's health organization* decision has increased the burden on  
21 abortion-providing facilities in the state, meaning longer wait times

1 for students needing to access care. A 2024 report from senator Maria  
2 Cantwell's office states that clinics in Oregon have already seen a  
3 20 percent increase in patients from Washington state traveling for  
4 abortion care, and the average wait times in Washington for abortion  
5 appointments in a Seattle area clinic have already increased by one  
6 week due to the influx of patients traveling from out of state. These  
7 financial and time burdens negatively impact academic performance,  
8 mental health, and physical health.

9 (4) Many of Washington's public institutions of higher education  
10 have student health centers, but only two campuses with student  
11 health centers are known to be in the process of implementing  
12 abortion services. Medication abortion is extremely safe,  
13 efficacious, and cost-effective. Research shows that the provision of  
14 medication abortion in student health centers is safe, effective, and  
15 feasible.

16 (5) Because medication abortion is recognized as a safe option  
17 for pregnancy termination and a health service every pregnant person  
18 in the state has the legal right to choose, it is the intent of the  
19 legislature that public institutions of higher education make  
20 medication abortion as accessible and cost-effective for students as  
21 possible.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply  
23 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires  
24 otherwise.

25 (1) "Council" means the Washington student achievement council as  
26 defined in RCW 28B.77.010.

27 (2) "Medication abortion" has the same meaning as  
28 "abortion medications" in RCW 69.41.050.

29 (3) "Public institution of higher education" or "public  
30 institutions of higher education" means institutions of higher  
31 education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

32 (4) "Student health center" means a clinic or health center  
33 providing physical health care services to students operated by  
34 public institutions of higher education.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) By the start of the 2026-27 academic  
36 year, each student health center must offer access to medication  
37 abortion, either through a public program or public programs that  
38 connect patients in Washington to reproductive health services or

1 through other delivery methods. This service must be offered with the  
2 utmost privacy and discretion and may be offered by providers at the  
3 student health center or through telehealth services, or by providers  
4 associated with public programs that connect patients in Washington  
5 to reproductive health services.

6 (2) By the start of the 2026-27 academic year, each public  
7 institution of higher education that does not operate a student  
8 health center must provide information and referral services for  
9 medication abortion to students seeking such services. The  
10 institution must, with the utmost privacy and discretion:

11 (a) (i) Provide referrals to qualified health care providers who  
12 can lawfully administer medication abortion;

13 (ii) Referrals must include the contact information for at least  
14 two qualified health care organizations, including telehealth  
15 organizations;

16 (b) Offer private and accessible space on campus for the student  
17 to participate in telehealth appointments upon a student's request  
18 for telehealth accommodation;

19 (c) Offer any necessary technical support for students using  
20 telehealth services, including reliable internet access; and

21 (d) Offer electronic devices to access telehealth services.

22 (3) (a) All institutions must maintain a comprehensive health  
23 services website that provides clear, accessible information and  
24 resources regarding reproductive health services including, but not  
25 limited to, prenatal care and options for pregnancy termination.

26 (b) The website must include:

27 (i) Detailed instructions for scheduling appointments, with  
28 contact information for both pregnancy-related services and  
29 behavioral health services; and

30 (ii) Links and contact information for campus resources that  
31 assist students in requesting academic accommodations, including  
32 absences, rescheduling exams, or adjusting other academic  
33 requirements due to pregnancy, recovery from medical treatment, or  
34 related conditions.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act  
36 constitute a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

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