

NO OFFERED ABORTION ACCESS WITHIN CC IS PROBLEMATIC

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The community college system needs to prioritize more than just education.

The topic of abortion is very controversial, and whether or not people agree with it, it should be more widely considered as a health service investment. Especially to a student body that is filled with people of all ages, genders and backgrounds.

Fresno City College is one of the many community colleges that doesn't provide abortion access.

For how all-inclusive FCC aims to be with sexual and reproductive health providing birth control, STI screenings etc., I think it's highly dismissive and problematic how the campus, and many others such as Reedley, Clovis and Madera community college don't provide any medicated resources for an abortion.

It isn't a matter of limitation on what abortion services they provide. There's nothing.

This isn't an issue only within the State Center Community College District as it expands throughout all of California. Community colleges aren't required to provide these services and it has rightfully led to concerns made by the Student Senate for California Community Colleges for a Community College Reproductive Health Access resolution.

In 2019, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 24 into law, which requires all California State Universities, and University of California campuses, starting and continuing beyond 2023, to provide abortion access under the College Student Right to Access Act.

With this bill, all CSU's and UC's were granted \$200,000 in state funds to provide "medication abortion readiness."

The pill comes in two forms, Mifepristone and Misoprostol, which stops the growth of the pregnancy and expels the tissue. While the medication ranges in price depending on the campus, the fact that it's still accessible to students is a step towards building the sense of security and validation that any school should prioritize for their students.

While these campuses receive significant help from the state of California and their own student health fees, FCC emphasizes "services are provided by Public Health Nurses and are funded by the student health fees," according to the FCC health services website.

Students have to pay a \$21 "Health Fee" each semester.

Although community colleges may not receive the same grants that CSU's do for Mifepristone and Misoprostol pills, there is a sense of obligation the school has to at least acknowledge the scope of needs and crises that students undergo. This could look like advocating for

student dollars to go into abortion practices.

I won't say that FCC or the SCCC doesn't prioritize the care for their students at all, there's just room for improvement. We're all students in college, and this should be as equal of a priority as it is for other California institutions.

Online, under the health services tab on the FCC website, the list of services related to pregnancy, sex and sexual health, show that FCC offers services related to reproductive health, but misses a service that is constantly underserved and limited. Many anti abortion clinics exist and the topic of abortion has been politicized and villainized in some religious communities.

In person, the health services center has a variety of brochures and information regarding mental and physical health care, but in visiting, I was concerned by the minimal information they have on abortion care.

There were brochures from Planned Parenthood, which does provide reproductive care and abortions, but one brochure was from the Pregnancy Care Center in the Tower District particularly stuck out to me. In Fresno, it is labeled as a "Crisis Pregnancy Center," also known as a fake clinic.

Not many people know about it, but there are many faith-based organizations that provide abortions service information and guidance but try to discourage the option through "deceptive practices." The Expose Fake Clinic website is founded by Abortion Access Hackathon and Abortion Access Front, working with 60 abortion access, care and support organizations across the country.

I'm not claiming FCC knows about this or even agrees with it, I just think it's a lack of oversight and there should be extra precaution when it comes to referrals to resources that are so limited and mistrusted.

Under these conditions, it is very possible that students who seek abortion services on their own, with little to no validable direction or guidance, are met with the potential risk of being guilted or pressured out of an abortion.

Because, the truth is many of these clinics will present themselves as a resource supporting the journey to a procedural or medicated abortions but will actually try to convince you out of an abortion through false advertisement of their services and misleading information on the effects of an abortion.

Imagine urgently needing an abortion in an already hostile and judgmental environment surrounding the topic, going into an abortion clinic expecting to receive help and you are told something like this.

"Are you sure you want to kill the unborn child?"

It's scary.

I worry that if I were ever in this situation, I would feel completely alone and judged.

When the current female-identifying population at FCC since 2024-2025 is more than the male-identifying population, it's not only critical to meet students where they are, but also consider any potential circumstances that may occur when reproductive health is in need of services, such as abortion.

There could be even more students who would need abortion care when we consider the full proportion of students who have the ability to conceive but may not identify as a woman. This can reflect how much potential there is for these crises to arise and affect students.

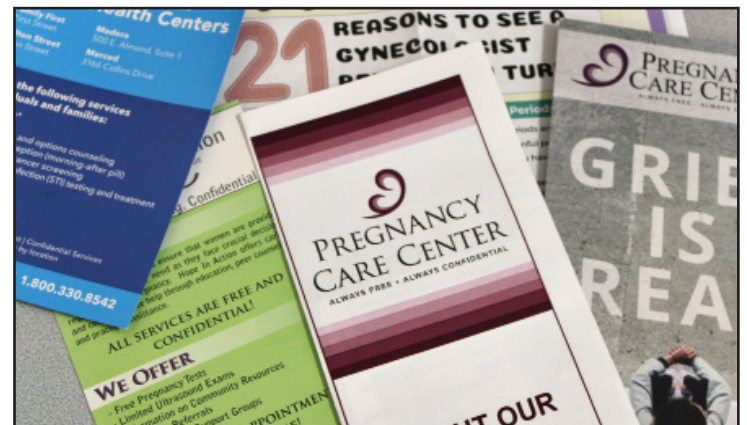
I'd argue that it's telling of the inconsistency when the only reproductive health remotely close to mentioned on our website points to contraceptives preventing pregnancy.

Yes, it's great that FCC does provide this for people in need of them, but it's hard for students to fully weigh their options when the closest choice is preventing something that has already happened.

How can we be truly inclusive and equitable to the students who require the privacy and security they might be missing outside of school if we don't acknowledge one of the most oppressed topics facing reproductive rights?

This is why real advocacy matters. Solutions like abortion care shouldn't be set aside like it isn't in the realm of health services or left to outside providers with the assumption that if people need them, they have somewhere to go. It's disorienting, and not even acknowledging available resources that are trusted is indirectly enabling the ostracism and alienation that surrounds abortion.

No matter how you view the importance of abortion, it's real and relevant. It does nothing for anyone to bury this under the false safety of birth control.



A photo of available brochures at Fresno City College's health services center related to pregnancy and reproductive care. Photo by Miley Araujo.

FRESNO CITY COLLEGE HAS A LOST AND FOUND?

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The Rampage conducted an experiment to see where an item went after being lost. We left a gray zip-up hoodie left on campus near the old science building on Friday Jan. 23, to see where it could end up. Inside the hoodie's front pocket was an AirTag, tucked into place, to track where lost items end up at Fresno City College.

The first few days had no movement, since it was a weekend with minimal people on campus. But on Wednesday Jan. 28, the location suddenly changed. The AirTag had moved to Parking Lot F across campus, before the signal had been disconnected, and became "unreachable."

The jacket will probably never be found, similarly to many items on campus. It couldn't be recovered after the Airtag disconnected, and most other people don't keep AirTags on their hoodies and won't receive their item back.

FCC does have a Lost and Found on campus, located in the police department near the New Science Building. But who knows about that?

Personally, I have lost items on campus for real, without having tracking devices on them. Specifically one time I lost my wallet, which had all my information in it, a ring from my grandmother and my car key inside.

It was scary because I had no idea where it would end up. I went to the front desk of the building I was near when it got lost and they had it.

Of course, it was good that everything worked out. But it makes me wonder, why even have a lost and found at the police department if my item ended up at the front desk of the nearest building?

For starters, the police department is far away from the rest of the campus. When somebody finds a lost item on the main campus, near the Old Administration Building for example, to return that to the police department they would have to walk all the way across campus, under the bridge, up a hill and across a parking lot.

The distance itself isn't too bad, but people already don't want to park in the parking structure because it is far away from campus. So, why would they walk all the way to return an item that isn't theirs.

And maybe this shows some sort of loss in humanity that a student would find an item and not return it because it isn't "convenient" but in all honesty you have to be realistic.

The likelihood of a person walking to the closest building and returning the lost item there is so much higher.

For example, the library and student activity spaces probably get the most foot traffic from the widest variety of people. If I ever find something, my inclination would naturally be to go to one of those buildings.

FCC is a commuter campus that sees tens of thousands of students per semester, which makes students losing items inevitable. Without knowledge that a Lost and Found exist, these items may never find their way back to the owners.

In a poll conducted on Jan. 30 on the Rampage's official Instagram, 76% or 39 viewers voted that they did not know we had a lost and found, and 24% or 12 viewers did. Students being unaware of a lost and found existing can account for items not being returned.

On the State Center Community College District website, it said, "Items are regularly left behind and end up at our office. If you lost any items, please contact our office and give a complete description of your item so we can arrange for you to pick it up."

The lack of student awareness of the existence of the Lost and Found on campus results in items being unclaimed. Even with awareness, people are unlikely to inconvenience themselves by going to the police station. It is far more likely for people to do a kind act, like returning a lost item, to a place of convenience.



A gray zip-up hoodie left on a bench near the old science building on Friday Jan. 23 at 4:05 p.m. Photo by Sophia Wilson.