



Berkeley City Council, District 5
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CONSENT CALENDAR

June 11, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmembers Sophie Hahn, Kate Harrison, and Susan Wengraf
Subject: Adopt a Resolution Opposing Anti-Abortion Bills Passed in 2019

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution Opposing anti-abortion bills passed in 2019 in Alabama, Mississippi, Ohio, Georgia, Missouri, Kentucky, Arkansas, Iowa, and Utah, and reaffirming the City of Berkeley's commitment to the fundamental right for women to choose whether, when, and how often to bear children.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

BACKGROUND

On May 22, the Governor Kay Ivey of Alabama signed a bill banning abortions into law, as an open challenge not just to *Roe v. Wade*, but to women's' right to choose whether, when, and how often to bear children. This law is the most restrictive anti-abortion bill introduced to date, and is the latest of a number of recent anti-abortion bills passed in states across the country to restrict or outright ban abortion, and to challenge *Roe v. Wade*.

Ohio, Georgia, Missouri, and Arkansas adopted bans on abortion before 18 weeks, the standard set by *Roe*. It is expected that many if not all of these laws will be challenged in court. Similar bans in Mississippi, Kentucky, Utah, and Iowa have been signed into law, but halted from enforcement by the courts. 30 other similar bans have been introduced around the country, representing a renewed effort to challenge the constitutional and human right to choose when and if to have children.

In light of this attack on abortion access, the ACLU, NARAL, Emily's List, Planned Parenthood, and many other social justice and civil rights organizations have initiated plans to oppose these unconstitutional bans through legal challenges, demonstrations and rallies, and legislative advocacy campaigns. District Attorneys in certain counties

have stated their opposition to such bans and made statements that they would not seek to prosecute violations of the new laws.

The City of Berkeley has long been committed to a woman's right to reproductive health choices, including abortion, and most recently marked the 46th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision with a proclamation and reaffirmation of its commitment to the rights afforded to all women under *Roe v. Wade*. In the face of the successful passage of laws across the country seeking to curtail the basic human right of choosing whether, when, and how often to bear children, Berkeley must reaffirm its commitment to reproductive rights and reiterate its opposition to anti-abortion legislation in the strongest terms.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This recommendation supports Berkeley's environmental sustainability goals.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Sophie Hahn, Council District 5, (510) 981-7150

ATTACHMENT

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

OPPOSING ANTI-ABORTION BILLS PASSED IN 2019 IN ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI, OHIO, GEORGIA, MISSOURI, KENTUCKY, ARKANSAS, IOWA, AND UTAH, AND REAFFIRMING THE CITY OF BERKELEY'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT FOR WOMEN TO CHOOSE WHETHER, WHEN, AND HOW OFTEN TO BEAR CHILDREN

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2019 Governor Kay Ivey of Alabama signed a bill banning abortions into law, as an open challenge not just to *Roe v. Wade*, but to women's' right to choose whether, when, and how often to bear children; and

WHEREAS, this law is the most restrictive anti-abortion bill introduced to date, and is the latest of a number of recent anti-abortion bills passed in states across the country to restrict or outright ban abortion; and

WHEREAS, 30 other similar anti-abortion bans have been introduced around the country, and nine states have successfully passed such bans into laws, representing a renewed effort to challenge the constitutional and human right to choose when and if to have children; and

WHEREAS, the ACLU, NARAL, Emily's List, Planned Parenthood, and many other social justice and civil rights organizations have initiated plans to oppose these unconstitutional bans through legal challenges, demonstrations and rallies, and legislative advocacy campaigns; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has long been committed to a woman's right to reproductive health choices, including abortion, and most recently marked the 46th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision with a proclamation and reaffirmation of its commitment to the rights afforded to all women under *Roe v. Wade*.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF BERKELEY that the City of Berkeley opposes any and all legislation that seeks to limit the fundamental human right of a woman to choose whether, when, and how often to bear children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley re-affirms its commitment to the basic human reproductive rights afforded to all women under *Roe v. Wade*.

