



Susan Wengraf
Councilmember District 6

CONSENT CALENDAR
January 19, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Wengraf (Author), Vice Mayor Droste (Co-Sponsor) and Councilmembers Hahn and Taplin (Co-Sponsors)

Subject: Resolution Reaffirming the City of Berkeley's Commitment to Roe v. Wade

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution reaffirming the City of Berkeley's commitment to Roe v. Wade and honoring the 48th anniversary of its passage.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

BACKGROUND

On January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court announced its decision in Roe v. Wade, a challenge to a Texas statute that made it a crime to perform an abortion unless a woman's life was at stake. The case had been filed by "Jane Roe," an unmarried woman who wanted to safely and legally end her pregnancy. Siding with Roe, the court struck down the Texas law. In a ruling, the court recognized for the first time that the constitutional right to privacy "is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy" (Roe v. Wade, 1973).

Roe has come to be known as the case that legalized abortion nationwide. At the time the decision was handed down, nearly all states outlawed abortion. Roe rendered these laws unconstitutional, making abortion services safer and more accessible to women throughout the country.

However, since coming to power, the Trump administration has tried to shut down Planned Parenthood in every way possible — in presidential budgets, health care reform bills, tax reform legislation, and federal resolutions and regulations, as well as by nominating anti-abortion judges. They have attempted to block access to care at Planned Parenthood health centers, which serve more than 2.4 million people each year — including many who have nowhere else to go for basic health services.

January 22, 2020 will be the 48th anniversary of the decision that effectively legalized abortion in the United States. The City has traditionally marked the anniversary with a proclamation recognizing the anniversary. The City has consistently passed resolutions denouncing the fraudulent media campaigns against Planned Parenthood and has

expressed continued support for access to all reproductive healthcare services and all reproductive healthcare providers. The City also adopted a resolution against proposed funding cuts to the Title X Family Planning program, the only federal program dedicated solely to providing low income women and men with comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

N/A

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

REAFFIRMING THE CITY OF BERKELEY'S COMMITMENT TO ROE V. WADE

WHEREAS, January 21, 2020 marks the 48th anniversary of the historic Supreme Court decision, Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion and recognized women's freedom of reproductive choice as essential to the lives, rights, health and equality of women; and

WHEREAS, Prior to 1973, the year when Roe v. Wade was enacted, women faced significant obstacles to safe reproductive health services, resulting in widespread loss of life and serious illness; and

WHEREAS, In 2020, 24 abortion restrictions were enacted and two abortion cases that would have significant implications for abortion access asked for Supreme Court review this fall: Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization and FDA v ACOG; and

WHEREAS, The right to safe, legal and accessible abortion continues to be undermined by federal initiatives, threatening the health and safety of women's lives, including the most marginalized women: low-income women, women of color, refugee and immigrant women; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the Bay Area, hundreds of health care workers have devoted their careers to ensuring that the women of the Bay Area have access to safe and legal reproductive health services, while often putting their own safety at great risk due to harassment and violent opposition; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF BERKELEY that we RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE THE 48th ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE and praise the perilous and self-sacrificing work of the healthcare providers who face threats and violence for providing safe and legal health services to women throughout the Bay Area.

NOW FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley re-affirms its commitment to the human rights afforded to all women under Roe v. Wade, regardless of socioeconomic, ethnic, racial, cultural or religious background, age or sexual orientation and to opposing any laws or regulations that pose a threat to abortion, reproductive rights, sexual freedom and/or self-determination.

