

Memorandum

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CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS



City of Dallas

DATE January 17, 2023

TO The Honorable Eric Johnson

FROM Adam Bazaldua

SUBJECT Request for Placement of Agenda Item – Council Member(s)

ITEM/ISSUE PROPOSED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

During its January 17, 2023 meeting, the Quality of Life, Arts, and Culture Committee voted to recommend approval of a resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* and affirming the city's support for abortion rights (copy attached).

Pursuant to Section 6.2 of the City Council Rules of Procedure, please place the following item on a city council voting agenda within 30 calendar days after receipt of this request:

A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* and affirming the city's support for abortion rights.

Submitted for consideration by:

Adam Bazaldua, District 7

Printed Name, District #

Handwritten signature of Adam Bazaldua in blue ink.

Signature

Supporting Council Member Signatures:

Paula C. Blackburn Dist. 9

Printed Name, District #

Omar Narvaez Dist. 6

Printed Name, District #

PAUL E. RIDLEY

Printed Name, District #

Chad West

Printed Name, District #

Chris Arnold

Printed Name, District #

Printed Name, District #

Handwritten signature of Paula C. Blackburn in blue ink.

Signature

Handwritten signature of Omar Narvaez in blue ink.

Signature

Handwritten signature of Paul E. Ridley in blue ink.

Signature

Handwritten signature of Chad West in blue ink.

Signature

Handwritten signature of Chris Arnold in blue ink.

Signature

Signature

Attachment: Draft Resolution

c: Honorable Council Members
T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Christopher J. Caso, City Attorney
Mark S. Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Tristan R. Hallman, Chief of Policy and Communications, Office of the Mayor

[Date]

WHEREAS, each of us should have the freedom to make decisions about our bodies, our lives, and our futures with respect and dignity, including when and how to become parents, without barriers based on who we are, how much we earn or where we're from; and

WHEREAS, abortion care, along with the full range of health care, should be affordable, available, and supported for everyone who needs it; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2022 the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* and 50 years of legal precedent, and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2022 the city of Dallas approved a resolution to condemn any action intended to abrogate the fundamental liberties of the people of Dallas and affirm the City Council commitment to protecting peoples right to make reproductive health decision for themselves and their families, including abortion care, and set policy regarding the use of city resources in the prosecution of people seeking to make reproductive decisions; and

WHEREAS, today, in the City of Dallas, people face delays when trying to access abortion care, are forced to travel hundreds of miles, and take on additional costs; and

WHEREAS, some people are denied care all together and forced to carry a pregnancy against their will; and

WHEREAS, systemic racism, economic insecurity, and a dehumanizing immigration system exacerbate the already-massive barriers to abortion care; and

WHEREAS, the decades-old policies like the Hyde Amendment and insurance coverage bans, restrictions on medication abortion, restrictions based on documentation status, low wages and unfair working conditions, violence and stigma, and other restrictions, have especially impacted people of color working to make ends meet; and

WHEREAS, someone who wants to get an abortion but is denied is more likely to experience life-threatening maternal and infant health complications, more likely to have a household income below the poverty line and experience economic hardship, and more

likely to stay in contact with violent partners, putting them and their children at greater risk than if they were able to receive the abortion;¹ and

WHEREAS, abortion is one of the safest medical procedures in the country² and leading public health organizations such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists³, the American Medical Association⁴, and the American Academy of Family Physicians⁵ strongly oppose efforts to impede access to abortion care or interfere in the relationship between a person and health care provider; and

WHEREAS, medication abortion, a Food and Drug Administration-approved, safe, and effective option for ending an early pregnancy up to 10 weeks,⁶ accounts for more than half of all abortions⁷ and yet anti-abortion lawmakers have enacted medically-unnecessary laws to restrict and stigmatize the procedure; and

WHEREAS, a 2022 report found that more than 66 clinics in 15 states⁸ have been forced to stop providing abortion care as a result of criminalization, impacting 22 million women of reproductive age as well as transgender and nonbinary people who may be in need of abortion care; and

WHEREAS, almost one-third (29%) of the total U.S. population of women of reproductive age are currently living in states where abortion is either unavailable or severely restricted and a dozen other states are certain or likely to ban abortion in the future⁹; and

¹ Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health, *Turnaway Study*, https://www.ansirh.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/turnaway_study_brief_web.pdf

² National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, *The Safety and Quality of Abortion Care in the United States* (2018), <https://doi.org/10.17226/24950>

³ The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, *Statement of Policy: Abortion Policy*, (May, 2022), <https://www.acog.org/clinical-information/policy-and-position-statements/statements-of-policy/2022/abortion-policy>

⁴ American Medical Association, *Policy on Preserving Access to Reproductive Health Services D-5.999*, (2022), <https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/5.999?uri=%2FAMADoc%2Fdirectives.xml-D-5.999.xml>

⁵ American Association of Family Physicians, *Policy on Reproductive and Maternity Health Services* (Sept. 2022), <https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/reproductive-maternity-health-services.html#Reproductive%20and%20Maternity%20Health%20Services>

⁶ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, *The Safety and Quality of Abortion Care in the United States* (2018), <https://doi.org/10.17226/24950>

⁷ Jones R et al., *Medication Abortion Now Accounts for More Than Half of All US Abortions*, Guttmacher Institute (2022), <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2022/02/medication-abortion-now-accounts-more-half-all-us-abortions>

⁸ Kirstein M et al., *100 Days Post-Roe: At Least 66 Clinics Across 15 US States Have Stopped Offering Abortion Care*, Guttmacher Institute (2022), <https://www.guttmacher.org/2022/10/100-days-post-roe-least-66-clinics-across-15-us-states-have-stopped-offering-abortion-care>

⁹ *Id.*

WHEREAS, the City of Dallas seeks to ensure abortion is there for everyone who needs it by supporting and advancing the Action Plan for Abortion Justice which would ensure abortion care is available without hurdles or stigma for people of color working to make ends meet, young people, LGBTQ+ and non-binary people; affordable and accessible for immigrants of any documentation status without fear of deportation, detention, or harm to their own or their family's immigration process; available in the communities where we live; provided in ways that are comfortable, secure, and make sense for patients; and affordable and covered by all public and private health insurance plans; and

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:

SECTION 1. City of Dallas is committed to a world where abortion care is affordable, available, and supported for everyone who needs it.

SECTION 2. That the City of Dallas is proud to support our Planned Parenthood reproductive health centers, the Afiya Center, abortion funds and practical support organizations, and other local reproductive health centers, who provide vital services to our local communities.

SECTION 3. That the City of Dallas is committed to working with local leaders and stakeholders to advance comprehensive abortion justice policies that address the lived realities of abortion access.

SECTION 4. That the City of Dallas urges President Biden to issue a budget without the Hyde Amendment and related coverage bans, and to put forth and support policy solutions to achieve abortion justice.

SECTION 5. That the City of Dallas supports the immediate passage of the Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH) Act of 2021 – S.1021 and H.R.2234 (117th Congress) – to ensure equal, affordable access to abortion to all individuals no matter how much money they make, how they are insured, who they are, or where they're from.

SECTION 6. That the City of Dallas supports the immediate passage of the Women's Health Protection Act of 2022 – S.4132 and H.R.8296 (117th Congress) – to protect the right to abortion and prohibit governmental restrictions on abortion.

SECTION 7. That the City of Dallas supports the immediate passage of the Lifting Immigrant Families Through Benefits Access Restoration Act of 2021 – S.4311 and

H.R.5227 (117th Congress) – to allow many immigrants to enroll in federal health programs like Medicaid without waiting periods.

SECTION 8. That the City of Dallas supports the immediate passage of the Health Equity and Access under the Law (HEAL) for Immigrant Women and Families Act of 2021 – S.1660 and H.R.3149 (117th Congress) – to ensure that all immigrants can access affordable coverage for which they are otherwise eligible.

SECTION 9. That the City of Dallas urges Congress to support the Action Plan for Abortion Justice and take additional action to ensure abortion care is available without hurdles or stigma for people of color working to make ends meet, young people, LGBTQ+ and non-binary people, immigrants, and others.

SECTION 10. The City Manager is directed to take appropriate steps to send a copy of this resolution to the Texas Governor and the Dallas delegation at the Texas State House of Representatives and Senate.

SECTION 11. That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage in accordance with the Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly so resolved.