



Susan Wengraf
Councilmember District 6

CONSENT CALENDAR
January 24, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Susan Wengraf
Councilmember Lori Droste

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

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Proclamation reaffirming the City of Berkeley's commitment to Roe v. Wade on the 44th anniversary of its passage.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

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 its 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.

Given the current heightened threat to reproductive choice in America, it is critically important to reaffirm Berkeley's commitment to a woman's right to reproductive health choices. Policies enacted at the Federal level could potentially affect access to services even in California.

January 22, 2017 will be the 44th 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 continually passes 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 grant program dedicated solely to providing low income women and men with comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

NA

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Susan Wengraf, Council District 6, 510-981-7160

Attachments:

1: Proclamation

PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING THE 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

WHEREAS, January 22, 2017 marks the 44th 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, this is a critical time for the future of reproductive health in America. Policies enacted at the federal level could potentially effect access to services even in California, 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

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY OF BERKELEY that we RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE THE 44TH 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 PROCLAIMED 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, sexual freedom and self-determination.

Mayor Jesse Arreguin

Councilmember Linda Maio

Councilmember Cheryl Davila

Councilmember Ben Bartlett

Councilmember Sophie Hahn

Councilmember Susan Wengraf

Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Councilmember Lori Droste

