



Susan Wengraf, Vice Mayor

CONSENT CALENDAR
January 22, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Vice Mayor Wengraf, and Councilmembers Hahn, Droste, and Kesarwani
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 honor the 46th anniversary of its passage with a proclamation.

BACKGROUND

Forty-six years ago, 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 Supreme Court struck down the Texas law recognizing, 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, 2019 will be the 46th 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 program dedicated solely to providing low income women and men with comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services.

The state of California has a history of supporting a woman's personal decisions regarding her reproductive health, including abortion. In 2012, California led the nation in being the only state to pass legislation expanding access to reproductive health care with AB 2348 expanding access to birth control. In 2013 the Legislature passed AB 154 and AB 980, improving abortion access.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Access to birth control, abortion and reproductive health services is critical to the attainment of our environmental goals.

CONTACT PERSON

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

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution
- 2: Proclamation

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

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

WHEREAS, January 22, 2019 marks the 46th 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, Individual states are passing laws banning rights to abortion: Mississippi and Kentucky banned abortion after 15 weeks and 11 weeks of gestation, respectively. Iowa banned abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected, which it typically six weeks, before most women even know they are pregnant. These laws demonstrate a pattern of attempts to reverse Roe v Wade.

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 lives, including the most marginalized women: low-income women, women of color, refugee and immigrant women.

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 46th 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, sexual freedom and self-determination.

PROCLAMATION

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

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Mayor Jesse Arreguin

Vice Mayor Susan Wengraf

Councilmember Lori Droste

Councilmember Sophie Hahn

Councilmember Cheryl Davila

Councilmember Kate Harrison

Councilmember Ben Bartlett

Councilmember Rashi Kersarwani

Councilmember Rigel Robinson

