

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE RIGHT OF REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States has acknowledged in its 1973 landmark decision, Roe vs. Wade, that the ability to make a private medical decision impacting one's own reproductive health is a constitutionally protected right of privacy; and

WHEREAS, prior to 1973, pregnant people in many states faced significant obstacles in accessing safe and legal reproductive care, resulting in widespread loss of life and serious illness; and

WHEREAS, this historic Supreme Court decision legalized abortion and recognized pregnant people's freedom of reproductive choice as essential to their lives, rights and health, and contributed most especially to women's struggle for equality; and

WHEREAS, nearly 600 pieces of legislation attacking and eroding access to safe and legal abortion care and women's reproductive rights were introduced in states throughout the Nation in the past year; and

WHEREAS, in August 2021 the U.S. Supreme Court declined to uphold the precedent set by the Roe decision, and allowed the State of Texas to enact Senate Bill 8 into law, which functionally denies abortion access for more than 6 million women of reproductive age living in Texas; and

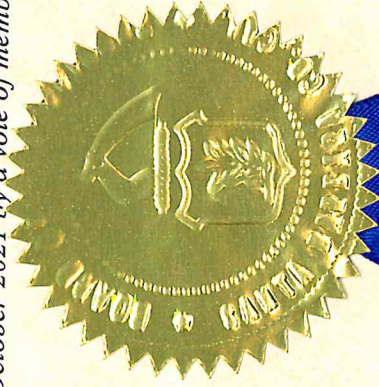
WHEREAS, these restrictions, bans, and attacks on reproductive freedom disproportionately affect populations that already face barriers to accessing health care – communities of color, people with low incomes, immigrants, young people, and women with children; and

WHEREAS, as states around the country enact extreme laws that violate the fundamental right to decide whether to bear children or end a pregnancy, the County of Santa Barbara can serve as a model by committing to defend reproductive freedom and access to safe and legal abortion care; and

WHEREAS, prohibitions on the right to safely access a range of reproductive health care services, including abortion and contraception care, are harmful to public health and safety, and are contrary to the values of the people of Santa Barbara County and the State of California, which affirmed this fundamental right to privacy in 1969, prior to Roe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors acknowledges the harm of eroding safe and legal access to reproductive care including abortion and contraception and upholds the constitutional rights enshrined by Roe vs. Wade for all residents in the County of Santa Barbara.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 5th day of October 2021 by a vote of members present.



ATTEST: _____

Clerk of the Board

Supervisor - 1st District

Supervisor - 2nd District

Supervisor - 3rd District

Supervisor - 4th District

Supervisor - 5th District