

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION AFFIRMING SAN MATEO COUNTY'S UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM AND HEALTH CARE PRIVACY

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo supports the ability of all residents to access appropriate and affordable healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo, through its County-operated healthcare delivery system and the public health programs it administers, strives to improve the lives of everyone in San Mateo County, and to provide services and outreach to build trust with women, particularly women of color, low-income women and gender nonconforming individuals, and these programs and efforts would be impaired by government actions that criminalize abortion and deter women from seeking needed health care; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo is a signatory to an amicus brief in the pending U.S. Supreme Court case, Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, and is thereby on record in support of abortion rights as critical to, among other things, achieving racial and economic equality; and

WHEREAS, the ability of women to safely access reproductive and other healthcare services is increasingly threatened across the United States, especially with the anticipated U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade; and

WHEREAS, California has a history of assuring safe access to abortion and contraception through structural supports, such as Medicaid and other public health programs, that assist all residents with the reproductive health care and contraceptive services they need, and these programs have resulted in a significant reduction in teen pregnancy, as well as reduced disparities in reproductive health care based on race, ethnicity, and socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, with the continued proliferation of laws restricting, prohibiting, and even criminalizing abortion in multiple states, women will be forced to leave their primary care providers and communities to travel to California to receive necessary reproductive health care services in the coming months and years; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo and other municipalities must act urgently to demonstrate a strong commitment to women’s reproductive freedom and healthcare rights and to support the preservation and expansion of reproductive healthcare access for all women;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo affirms its unwavering commitment to women’s reproductive freedom and health care privacy, and hereby directs the County Executive or his designee to develop for this Board’s consideration and approval an action plan to implement this commitment and to return to the Board on June 14, 2022 to present the plan.

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