

RESOLUTION NO. _____

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

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**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM AND
HEALTHCARE PRIVACY ADVOCACY AGENDA**

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, with the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overturned the long-standing precedent of *Roe v. Wade*, the ability of women to safely access reproductive and other healthcare services is now significantly threatened across the United States; and

WHEREAS, with the continued proliferation of laws restricting, prohibiting, and

even criminalizing abortion in multiple states, women will now be forced to leave their home communities and primary health care providers to travel to other states including California to receive necessary reproductive health care services in the coming months and years; 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, the Board affirmed its unwavering commitment to women's reproductive freedom and health care privacy in Resolution No. 078875 on May 17, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Board unanimously approved the Women's Reproductive Freedom and Healthcare Privacy Action Plan in Resolution No. 078909 on June 14, 2022, and directed the County Executive or his designee to develop an advocacy agenda for this Board's consideration; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Commission on the Status of Women, an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors, at its regular meeting on June 28, 2022, discussed, prioritized, and came to consensus on issues for staff to include in the Advocacy Agenda, and that the relevant portions have been included; and

WHEREAS, Staff has developed a Women’s Reproductive Freedom and Healthcare Privacy Advocacy Agenda that underscores the Board’s unwavering support for women’s reproductive freedom and establishes priority issue areas for advocacy through support of appropriate Federal and State legislation; and

WHEREAS, these priority issue areas include, but are not limited to: access to reproductive health care services, including abortion and contraception; protection of patient privacy; the safety and security of patients, providers, and clinics; expansion of the reproductive health care workforce; and support for a California state constitutional amendment establishing the right to reproductive care and abortion services; and

WHEREAS, this Advocacy Agenda will be added to the San Mateo County Legislative Agenda, will be updated regularly, and will include input from the San Mateo County Commission on the Status of Women, County Attorney’s Office, County staff and the Board subcommittee, and quarterly reports will be provided to the Board; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors accepts the San Mateo County Women’s Reproductive Freedom and Healthcare Privacy Advocacy Agenda.

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