

Proposed Women's Reproductive Freedom and Healthcare Privacy Advocacy Agenda

The following policies are proposed to be added to San Mateo County's Legislative Program.

Reproductive Rights

State:

1. The County supports amending the California Constitution to establish a right to reproductive freedom, including a right to an abortion and to choose or refuse contraceptives, as proposed in Proposition 1 on the November 2022 ballot.
2. The County supports the establishment of civil and criminal protections for patients seeking or receiving reproductive healthcare services, as well as reproductive healthcare service providers, in California.
3. The County supports the establishment of privacy protections for medical records related to abortion care against disclosures to law enforcement and out-of-state third parties seeking to enforce abortion bans in other states.
4. The County supports state funding of providers who provide uncompensated care to patients, regardless of state residency, with low incomes and those who face financial barriers to accessing abortion and contraception.
5. The County supports the establishment of a state fund to provide financial support for practical and logistical assistance to patients accessing abortion care, including but not limited to childcare, travel costs, food, and lodging.
6. The County supports the creation of a state-supported website with comprehensive information regarding abortion care, services, and resources available in California.
7. The County supports state funding to conduct medically accurate and culturally competent outreach and education on sexual health and reproductive health issues.
8. The County supports state funding and policies to assist reproductive healthcare facilities in securing their physical and information technology infrastructure and to enhance facility security.
9. The County supports state funding and policies to increase the reproductive healthcare workforce.
10. The County supports state funding to research the unmet needs for access to reproductive healthcare services.

Federal:

Reproductive rights: On June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed 50 years of precedent by overturning *Roe v. Wade* in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. The decision was deeply troubling as many states have passed, or are set to enact, laws that restrict, prohibit, and even criminalize abortion. The immediate impact of these new laws leaves women in those states, particularly women of color and low-income women, unable to access abortion and other healthcare services safely.

The County supports federal actions to protect the right to reproductive freedom, including:

- Codifying the legal protections embedded in the *Roe v Wade* decision, including support for the Women's Health Protection Act
- Protecting and expanding access to abortion care, including FDA-approved medications.
- Protecting and expanding access to contraception.
- Ensuring all patients have access to the full rights and protections of emergency medical care.
- Protecting consumer privacy when seeking information about and provision of reproductive healthcare services.
- Opposing bans on interstate travel to block a patient from seeking abortion care.
- Ensuring the safety of patients, providers, and third parties that are providing, receiving, dispensing, or delivering reproductive healthcare services.
- Conducting outreach and public education efforts.
- Funding reproductive healthcare providers and clinics.