

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City is committed to a high-quality health care system that meets the needs of all of its citizens, and a woman's right to make the decision to access safe, affordable reproductive health care services, including abortion care as an essential component; and

WHEREAS, January 22, 2017 marks the 44th anniversary of the United States Supreme Court's landmark decision, Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion and recognized an individual's constitutional right to privacy; and

WHEREAS, throughout Austin and Travis County, hundreds of doctors, nurses, and clinic workers have devoted their medical careers to ensuring access to safe and legal reproductive health care services, including abortion, while often putting their own safety at great risk of harassment and violence; and

WHEREAS, illegal abortion before 1973 caused the death of hundreds of women annually and serious injury to thousands more, which caused great anguish to families and the fabric of U.S. society; and

WHEREAS, every day reproductive health care providers in Austin and Travis County provide safe reproductive health care services to women statewide, including those most marginalized; and

WHEREAS, the constitutional right to privacy, which includes decisions related to abortion as embodied in Roe v. Wade, enabled women to make their own decisions related to reproductive health care and saved women's lives; and

WHEREAS, abortions performed by qualified health care providers are very safe; and

WHEREAS, abortion has become less accessible in Texas as evidenced by the decline in the number of clinics providing women access to these services by about 47.5 percent since 2013, with a drop from 40 to 19 clinics serving the 5.4 million women of reproductive age; and

WHEREAS, the right of women to make their own decisions about reproductive health, which includes access to safe, legal, and accessible abortion care, continues to be undermined by various state and federal initiatives;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

City Council recognizes the 44th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade; recognizes a woman's right to make the decision to access safe, affordable reproductive health care services, which may include decisions related to abortion as an essential component of health care; affirms that safe and legal abortions should be affordable and accessible for all who seek it; and supports the work of health care providers in Austin and Travis County facing threats and violence for providing safe and legal access to reproductive health care services, including abortion care.

ADOPTED: _____, 2017

ATTEST: _____

-Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk