

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council believes that access to health care services is a basic human right; and

WHEREAS, the University of Toronto's Martin Prosperity Institute recently ranked Austin as the most economically segregated city in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics found that four out of five income brackets spent between 8.0%-9.0% on health care expenses, which is the fourth highest category of expense behind housing, food, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, ensuring access to affordable health care services is an important factor in addressing Austin's affordability crisis; and

WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood is one of the nation's leading providers of high-quality, affordable health care for women, men and young people, and the nation's largest provider of sex education; and

WHEREAS, 79% of Planned Parenthood clients have incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood currently has three locations in Austin that provide critical services for Austinites; and

WHEREAS, the University of Texas at Austin's Texas Policy Evaluation Project published Barriers to Family Planning Access in Texas (Research Brief) in May 2015 which found that "55% of women reported at least one barrier to accessing reproductive health care services, including cervical cancer screening or family planning services;" and

WHEREAS, the Research Brief identified barriers for women including how to "pay for services, find a place where they feel comfortable with the health care providers, get time off of work or school, find a place that accepted their insurance, or find a place in their community offering these services;" and

WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood provides solutions that minimize or eliminate entirely barriers that women face for accessing reproductive health care services; and

WHEREAS, funding for Planned Parenthood is debated in Congress on an ongoing basis; and

WHEREAS, since 2003, the Texas Legislature has passed bills every session that chip away at access to reproductive services including implementing burdensome regulations, decreasing funding for services, and enacting extreme restrictions; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the actions of the Texas Legislature, many clinics across Texas have been forced to close and thousands of women have limited or no access to basic health care and birth control; and

WHEREAS, the City has contracts for consulting and ongoing services to protect the City's interests during Congressional and Legislative Sessions; and

WHEREAS, protecting funding for Planned Parenthood and expanding access to a full spectrum of health services for women is in the best interest of Austin residents; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City's federal legislative agenda is hereby amended to (1) support any legislation that would maintain or expand funding for Planned Parenthood; and (2) oppose any legislation that would reduce funding for Planned Parenthood or endanger access to affordable health care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City of Austin's state legislative agenda is hereby amended to support any legislation that expands funding or access to a full spectrum of health services.

ADOPTED: _____, 2015

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk