




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Carol Johnson, Director, Office of Civil Rights 

THROUGH: Veronica Briseño, Assistant City Manager

DATE: June 21, 2022

SUBJECT: **Update on Reproductive Health Decision Ordinance (Resolution No. 20220519-088)**

This memo is in response to [Resolution No. 20220519-088](#) directing the City Manager to provide Council with a Reproductive Health Decision ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on reproductive health decisions by June 16, 2022.

The Office of Civil Rights Office respectfully requests additional time to complete this work. The additional time will be used to conduct research and consult with the Law Department. This new protected class in the areas of housing, public accommodations, employment by City contractors and employment generally, needs additional time to be defined in scope to ensure legal enforceability by the OCR.

The Office of Civil Rights has consulted with Council Member Fuentes' office, which drafted the underlying resolution in response to the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case now pending before the U.S. Supreme Court and which is expected to overturn the federal right to abortion longstanding in *Roe v. Wade*, and they are supportive of the additional time needed to complete this ordinance.

Council Member Fuentes' office is spearheading the stakeholder input process, which is not yet complete. Additionally, Council Member Fuentes' office indicated a preference that this ordinance be considered during a Council meeting at which Council Member Vela's Grace Act will be considered. If you have questions, please contact me at 512-978-1534 or carol.johnson@austintexas.gov.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Anne Morgan, City Attorney