

**PROPOSED**

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO TAKE ACTION SAFEGUARDING THE ACCESSIBILITY, AFFORDABILITY, AND SAFETY OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE AND THE FUNDAMENTAL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO ABORTION; OPPOSING THE LATEST EFFORTS OF SEVERAL U.S. STATES TO SEVERELY LIMIT OR BAN ABORTION; CONDEMNING CERTAIN DECEPTIVE PRACTICES OF "CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTERS"; DIRECTING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE OFFICIALS DESIGNATED HEREIN; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Sponsored by Senator Nan H. Rich)

WHEREAS, in the 1973 landmark decision, *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), the United States Supreme Court decided that the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides a fundamental "right to privacy" protecting a pregnant person's liberty to choose whether to have an abortion or not; and the constitutional right to abortion has been affirmed in subsequent Supreme Court cases, including *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992), and *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt*, 579 U.S. 582 (2016);

WHEREAS, the legalization of abortion in the United States led to safer practices and drastically reduced the incidence of maternal deaths and hospitalizations related to abortion;

WHEREAS, half of all pregnancies in the U.S. each year are unintended, and four in ten unintended pregnancies are ended by safe and legal abortions as published in a 2014 article in the American Journal of Public Health;

1           WHEREAS, the states that have the strictest laws against safe and legal abortion  
2 are the states in which women suffer from lower levels of education and higher levels of  
3 poverty, as well as from a lower ratio of female-male earnings; they also have a lower  
4 percentage of women in the legislature and fewer mandates requiring insurance providers  
5 to cover minimum hospital stays after childbirth as researched by Jean Reith Schroedel  
6 in a 2000 article in the Cornell University press;

7           WHEREAS, women who live in states with policies that support women’s access  
8 to healthcare have higher earnings and are more integrated into the workforce than  
9 women in other states, and access to reproductive healthcare has been linked to reduced  
10 unemployment gaps between jobs;

11           WHEREAS, the impact of abortion restrictions is predominantly felt by those who  
12 already experience barriers to healthcare, including young people, people of color and  
13 those with disabilities, people with low incomes, immigrants of any status, and people  
14 who live in rural areas;

15           WHEREAS, every person, regardless of race, gender identity, income level, and  
16 immigration status, should have access to the full range of reproductive healthcare,  
17 starting before they ever become pregnant and including contraception, abortion, and  
18 prenatal and postpartum care;

19           WHEREAS, according to a review published in Reviews in Obstetrics and  
20 Gynecology in 2009, each year, about five million women worldwide are hospitalized for  
21 complications arising from unsafe, illegal abortions;

22           WHEREAS, according to leading public health organizations such as the American  
23 College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Medical Association, American  
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1 Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Osteopathic Association, blocking  
2 women’s access to legal abortion “jeopardize[s] women’s health”;

3 WHEREAS, abortion is one of the safest medical procedures in the United States,  
4 and experts at the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine published  
5 a study in 2018 confirming that scientific evidence consistently indicates that legal  
6 abortions in the United States, including those performed in the second trimester, are  
7 extremely safe but medically unnecessary regulations of abortion can diminish the quality  
8 of abortion care by contributing to the decline of facilities that provide abortion, needlessly  
9 delaying abortion, and making it unnecessarily difficult to access abortion care;

10 WHEREAS, a hostile climate for freedom to reproductive healthcare has been  
11 created in ten (10) states: Missouri, Kentucky, Ohio, Utah, Arkansas, Louisiana,  
12 Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Texas; all have passed legislation restricting the right  
13 to an abortion at various stages of pregnancy and seven (7) states have banned abortion  
14 at six to eight (6-8) weeks, which is the equivalent of a missed menstrual cycle;

15 WHEREAS, the law enacted in Texas on May 19, 2021, is the most restrictive  
16 anti-abortion law to date as it threatens an individual’s fundamental right to privacy and  
17 the right to safe and legal access to abortion;

18 WHEREAS, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners (“Board”)  
19 condemns all unconstitutional proposed abortion bans and parental consent bills that may  
20 come before the 2022 session of the Florida Legislature; reproductive freedom for all must  
21 be protected and expanded in the State of Florida;

22 WHEREAS, the Board believes every person has the constitutional fundamental  
23 right to an abortion and the freedom to access additional reproductive healthcare services  
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1 such as contraception, STD/HIV testing and treatment, other OBGYN services, and  
2 comprehensive sex education for young people;

3 WHEREAS, the Board condemns the deceptive practices of the “crisis pregnancy  
4 centers” operating in Broward County that pretend to provide comprehensive and  
5 medically accurate services; and

6 WHEREAS, the Florida standard for privacy extends even further than the federal  
7 standard, as Article I, Section 23 of the Florida Constitution explicitly provides, in part,  
8 that “[e]very natural person has the right to be let alone and free from governmental  
9 intrusion into the person’s private life . . . ,” NOW, THEREFORE,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
11 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

12 Section 1. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners (“Board”)  
13 urges the Florida Legislature to safeguard the accessibility, affordability, and safety of  
14 reproductive healthcare and the fundamental constitutional right to abortion.

15 Section 2. The Board opposes the latest legislation of ten states in the United  
16 States severely limiting or banning abortion.

17 Section 3. The Board condemns the deceptive practices of “crisis pregnancy  
18 centers” that pretend to provide comprehensive and medically accurate services.

19 Section 4. The Board hereby directs the County Administrator to transmit a copy  
20 of this Resolution to the Governor of Florida, the President of the Florida Senate, the  
21 Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, the Broward County Legislative  
22 Delegation, and the Broward League of Cities.

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1 Section 5. Severability.

2 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid  
3 portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this  
4 Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, in whole or in part, cannot be  
5 legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such  
6 determination will not affect the applicability of this Resolution to any other individual,  
7 group, entity, property, or circumstance.

8 Section 4. Effective Date.

9 This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

10 ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021. **PROPOSED**

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12 Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:  
Andrew J. Meyers, County Attorney

13 By /s/ Maite Azcoitia 10/28/2021  
14 Maite Azcoitia (date)  
15 Deputy County Attorney

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MA  
Reso Reproductive Rights  
10/28/2021