



Broward County

Legislation Text

File #: 21-1986, Version: 1

Broward County Commission Regular Meeting

Director's Name: Nan H. Rich

Department: County Commission

Information

Requested Action

MOTION TO ADOPT Resolution No. 2021-519, the title of which is as follows: (Commissioner Rich)

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.

Why Action is Necessary

Formal Board approval is necessary for the adoption of a Resolution.

What Action Accomplishes

Enables the adoption of the above Resolution.

Is this Action Goal Related

No

Previous Action Taken

Summary Explanation/Background

In the 1973 landmark decision, *Roe v. Wade*, 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. The constitutional right to abortion has been affirmed in subsequent Supreme Court cases, including *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* in 1992, and *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt* in 2016.

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. However, the Guttmacher Institute has observed that in 2021 states have enacted more than 100 abortion restrictions so far. This is the largest number of abortion restrictions ever enacted in a single year. The most restrictive anti-abortion law to date was passed by Texas on May 19, 2021. The Texas law threatens an

individual's fundamental right to privacy and the right to safe and legal access to abortion.

The State of Florida's standard for privacy extends even further than the federal standard, as Article I, Section 23 of the Florida Constitution explicitly provides, in part, that "[e]very natural person has the right to be let alone and free from governmental intrusion into the person's private life..." The proposed Resolution states that the Broward County Board of County Commissioners ("Board") condemns all unconstitutional proposed abortion bans and parental consent bills that may come before the 2022 session of the Florida Legislature. The Board believes that reproductive freedom for all must be protected and expanded in the State of Florida.

Source of Additional Information

Harrison Grandwilliams, Chief of Staff, District 1, 954-357-7001

Fiscal Impact

Fiscal Impact/Cost Summary

None.