

PROPOSED BY: FRAZEY/GALLOWAY
INTRODUCED: _____

RESOLUTION NO.

SUPPORTING EVERY PERSON'S RIGHT TO ~~INCLUSIVE HEALTHCARE~~ REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

WHEREAS, under the authorities established by the Whatcom County Charter, Whatcom County government remains committed to preserving public peace, health and safety; and

WHEREAS, all people should retain the right to access quality, affordable, and inclusive healthcare, including reproductive health, pre-and-post-abortion and pre-and-post-partum services including mental health services, and pre- and postnatal care; and

WHEREAS, access to safe and legal abortion is critical to maintaining public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, historically, illegal abortions created significant risk of injury and death, and by 1965, accounted for 17% of all deaths attributed to pregnancy and childbirth; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Washington State voters approved Referendum 20, making Washington State the first state to legalize abortion through a vote of the people; and

WHEREAS, in the 1973 Roe v. Wade court decision, the United States Supreme Court ruled 7-2 that a person has the constitutional right to choose whether to have an abortion under the "right to privacy" guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, a recently leaked draft decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization indicates that the U.S. Supreme Court might imminently overturn the Roe v. Wade decision, leaving it to individual states to allow or ban abortions; and

WHEREAS, if Roe v. Wade is overturned and states implement bans on abortion, Washington state will likely become the closest abortion provider for many more people; and

WHEREAS, for generations, the US Congress, regardless of party control, has failed to codify a right to abortion in statute; and

WHEREAS, the impact of abortion bans fall disproportionately on people of color and low-income people who do not have the financial resources or access to inclusive healthcare and safe abortions; and

WHEREAS, on November 24, 2020, the Whatcom County Health Board passed Resolution [2020-054](#) affirming Whatcom County's commitment to policies and practices that reflect a conscious effort to ensure racial equity, equity of access and service, and further to ensure the equitable treatment of all people, regardless of race or ethnicity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that Whatcom County uphold its commitment to preserving public health and safety by:

- Calling on Congress to define an expansive national right to abortion in statute
- Calling on both political parties to appoint pro-choice justices to the US Supreme Court, courts of appeals, and federal district courts
- Partnering with Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood for the Whatcom County Health Department to offer long-lasting active birth control (LARC) ~~with the Whatcom County Syringe Services Program.~~
- ~~Expanding funding for the Whatcom County Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP).~~
- Supporting access to quality, affordable, and inclusive healthcare including reproductive health and protecting a person's right to choose.
- Supporting, uplifting, and empowering local healthcare providers.
- Joining leaders across the state and nation in defending Roe V. Wade as the law of the land.
- Urging state and federal lawmakers to fully fund Title X and pass legislation codifying the full right and access to safe and legal abortion and other reproductive healthcare nationwide.
- ~~Supporting children and families' well-being through comprehensive postpartum and postnatal care, Early Head Start and Early Support for Infants and Toddlers programs, and any effort to provide quality, accessible, and affordable childcare for Whatcom County families.~~

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2022.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Todd Donovan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Civil Deputy Prosecutor