

COTW amendments highlighted in yellow

PROPOSED BY: FRAZEY/GALLOWAY

INTRODUCED: \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTING EVERY PERSON'S RIGHT TO INCLUSIVE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE

WHEREAS, upon taking the Oath of Office, Whatcom County Councilmembers swear to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, under the authorities established by the Whatcom County Charter, Whatcom County government is obligated to ~~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, all people should have equitable access to the same reproductive care; and

WHEREAS, geographical location and financial resources often create barriers to receiving the healthcare they need; and

WHEREAS, the ability of people to fully participate in the community and economy has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives; and

WHEREAS, reproductive health is as much about someone choosing when to become a parent so they can be the best parent possible as it is about the choice to not be a parent; 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, in 1973, the United States Supreme Court held in Roe v. Wade, a 7-2 decision, that a person has the constitutional right to choose whether to have an abortion, without excessive governmental interference, under the due process clause and the "right to privacy" guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution; and~~

~~WHEREAS, in 1978, the Common Pleas Court of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, held that a person cannot be legally compelled to undergo a medical procedure to save another, upholding the right to bodily autonomy; 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, tThe 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:

- Partnering with Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood ~~for~~ [to expand](#) the Whatcom County Health Department's [current services \(needle exchange, STD testing, vaccines, etc.\)](#) ~~to offer~~ [ed through the the Whatcom County Syringe Services Program and provide access to reproductive healthcare](#) ~~(Pap smears, mammograms, long-lasting reversible active birth control contraception (LARC), etc.)~~ [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, [especially those providing safe abortion services.](#)
- Joining leaders across the state and nation in defending Roe V. Wade as the law of the land.
- [Calling on Congress to define an expansive national right to abortion in statute.](#)
- [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.](#)
- [Calling on both political parties to appoint pro-choice justices to the US Supreme Court, courts of appeals, and federal district courts.](#)
- [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.](#)
- [Supporting the priorities outlined in the Healthy Whatcom Community Health Improvement Plan, including the mental health and well-being of children, parents, and caregivers.](#)

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of current chair), Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), Civil Deputy Prosecutor