

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 preserve 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 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, 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 to expand the Whatcom County Health Department's current services (needle exchange, STD testing, vaccines, etc.) offered through the Whatcom County Syringe Services Program and provide access to reproductive healthcare (Pap smears, mammograms, contraception, etc.).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

Todd Donovan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Civil Deputy Prosecutor