

Offered by City Councilors Julia Mejia , Arroyo, Baker, Bok, Breadon, Campbell, Edwards, Essaibi-George, Flaherty, Flynn, O'Malley and Wu



CITY OF BOSTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION CALLING ON CONGRESS TO AFFIRM REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM AND PASS THE WOMEN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT

- WHEREAS,** Abortion care is essential health care and health care is a fundamental human right; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Equal access to abortion care everywhere is essential to social and economic participation, reproductive autonomy, and the right to determine ones future; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Equitable access to comprehensive reproductive health care—including abortion care is fundamentally a racial and economic justice issue; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The landmark Supreme Court ruling Roe v. Wade upholds the constitutional right to privacy, including in health care decisions and the right to access abortion care and has been relied upon in this country for nearly 50 years, with nearly 7 in 10 Americans agreeing with the decision that established a person's right to an abortion; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 2020, the ROE Act was passed into law in the Commonwealth, abolishing unnecessary abortion restrictions and codifying the principles of reproductive freedom in Massachusetts state law; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Over the last decade reproductive rights and freedom have been under attack across the nation and since 2011, anti-abortion lawmakers throughout the country have pushed nearly 500 restrictive laws through state legislatures to make abortion difficult and at times completely impossible to access; *and*
- WHEREAS,** These abortion bans and restrictions have become more extreme and have aimed to restrict abortion as early as 6 and 8 weeks of pregnancy—before many people even know they are pregnant; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Abortion bans do not stop abortion, they merely push safe, necessary care out of reach of the most vulnerable and disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and those struggling to make ends meet; *and*
- WHEREAS,** On September 1, 2021 the Supreme Court denied an emergency request to block Texas S.B. 8, a blatantly unconstitutional and radical six-week abortion ban that also incentivizes vigilantism and provides a \$10,000 reward for private citizens who sue their neighbors on suspicion of abetting abortion; *and*

WHEREAS, The Texas SB. 8 bill will not be the last attack on reproductive freedom as this fall, the Supreme Court is scheduled to consider another case from Mississippi that takes direct aim at the core protections of Roe v. Wade; *and*

WHEREAS, Congress can and must act to pass legislation that affirms reproductive rights, freedom and justice and codifies protections in Roe v. Wade in federal law once and for all; *and*

WHEREAS, The Women’s Health Protection Act, co-introduced by Massachusetts’s own Representative Ayanna Pressley along with Representative Judy Chu is the legislative solution that would fight back against these attacks on abortion access and codify the right for doctors to provide and patients to access abortion care free from medically unnecessary bans and restrictions; *and*

WHEREAS, each day that goes by without Congressional action means that more people—disproportionately Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, members of the LGBTQIA+ community and those struggling to make ends meet-- will be denied their constitutional right to abortion; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: The Boston City Council supports Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley’s Women’s Health Protection Act as the legislative solution to fight back against the calculated attacks on reproductive rights and freedom across the country; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council Calls on the House of Representatives and the United States Senate to pass the Women’s Health Protection Act without further delay and urges President Biden to swiftly sign the Women’s Health Protection Act into law and continue to use the full power of the Presidency to affirm reproductive rights and justice for all.

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