



Office of the City Clerk

City Hall
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Chicago, IL 60602
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Legislation Text

File #: R2022-588, **Version:** 1

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING COMMITMENT TO PROTECTION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE RIGHTS

WHEREAS, The ability for people to safely access and receive all reproductive healthcare, specifically abortion care and other healthcare services, is becoming increasingly threatened across the United States; and

WHEREAS, The right for people to make their own reproductive and sexual healthcare treatment decisions has been a constitutional right for nearly 50 years since the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Roe v. Wade*; and

WHEREAS, On May 2, 2022, a leaked draft majority opinion in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* was circulated to the Supreme Court Justices that would overturn both *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, which would allow state legislatures - or even Congress - to adopt strict laws regulating bodily autonomy or prohibiting abortion without exception; and

WHEREAS, At least 23 different states have passed abortion bans prior to *Roe* or have passed "trigger laws," which would effectively ban abortions almost immediately after a decision from the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*; legislatures in several other states - including all states bordering Illinois - have indicated they will likely ban abortions if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned. For many of these states, abortion is already a right in name only because medically unnecessary laws are already on their books; and

WHEREAS, Access to abortion is more than just an issue of bodily autonomy, but is also an issue of personal and economic freedom; restrictions on an individual's choice surrounding if and when to become a parent impacts their entire community - studies show that restrictions on reproductive healthcare can cost local economies up to \$105 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, We are grateful to our colleagues in the Illinois General Assembly for doing the hard work to protect the fundamental right to abortion and access to all reproductive and sexual healthcare by repealing Illinois's trigger law and by codifying the individual's right to make their own healthcare decisions into state law; and

WHEREAS, While Illinois is already a haven for people seeking reproductive care from states with restrictive laws, experts expect that if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, Illinois will likely see an influx of 20,000 to 30,000 more patients each year; and

WHEREAS, In response to the leaked draft opinion, Mayor Lightfoot, together with reproductive health and justice leaders, announced the City's "Justice For All Pledge," which doubles down on the City's commitment to be safe and equitable for all and commits that the City will continue to be a safe haven for all who are unjustly denied the resources and opportunities they deserve, to fight for the rights of all people, and to ensure that no person will be attacked, assaulted, bullied, or discriminated against because of who they are, the choices they make regarding their bodily autonomy, or who they love; and

WHEREAS, As part of this pledge, the Mayor has committed a \$500,000 investment from the Chicago Department of Public Health to support transportation, lodging, safe and necessary reproductive, obstetric, and gynecological care, and follow-up services; and

WHEREAS, Building upon this pledge, the City will remain vigilant as reproductive rights are under attack, and we commit to fighting for reproductive freedom for our residents and for anyone who comes to Chicago seeking reproductive, obstetric, and gynecological care; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor, and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this twenty-third day of May, 2022, do hereby reaffirm our commitment to reproductive freedom, bodily autonomy, and the protection of abortion rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we call upon the members of the Illinois Congressional delegation to pledge their full support to federally codify the basic rights that had been protected for nearly 50 years, including the right to access safe and legal abortion care and individuals' rights to make decisions about their own reproductive health, regardless of the patient's age, sex, gender identity, race, disability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, place of residence, or immigration status.

CITY OF CHICAGO

SAMANTHA NUGENT Alderman, 39th Ward

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK ANNA M. VANCE
NCA

Chicago City Council Co-Sponsor Form

Document No.

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING COMMITMENT TO PROTECTION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE RIGHTS

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Alderman

PAT DOWELL

Alderman

Date Filed: MAY 19, 2022

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Reaffirmation of commitment to reproductive justice, bodily autonomy, and protection
of reproductive health care rights

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Alderman

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Alderman

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