

**ATTACHMENT**

**For Item**

**#25**

**Tuesday,  
May 24, 2022**

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE  
CLERK OF THE BOARD**

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May 23, 2022

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of San Diego  
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 335  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Re: Letter of Support for Strengthening Access to Reproductive Health Care (Item 24) and Supporting Efforts to Amend the California Constitution to Enshrine the Right to Abortion (Item 25)**

Dear Chair Fletcher, Vice Chair Vargas, and Honorable Board of Supervisors,

I write to express my and San Diego Pride's strong support for the Board Letters coming before the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors related to access to reproductive health care in San Diego County and the protection of the legal right to abortion in the State of California.

Under the leadership of Vice Chair Nora Vargas, the County of San Diego has become a true Reproductive Freedom County. While other regions in the nation are moving backward by restricting fundamental reproductive rights, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors is moving forward to focus on access to reproductive health care and to further protect the right to abortion in California.

As advocates for LGBTQIA+ justice and equality, San Diego Pride applauds the County's efforts to ensure both legal and practical access to abortion care for all people who need such healthcare, and make no mistake, LGBTQIA+ people - specifically, non-binary and transgender people and non-heterosexual cisgender women - need abortion care as well. Reproductive justice is inexorably linked with LGBTQIA+ justice, and decades of research and data prove that barriers to accessing reproductive healthcare always hit underserved communities - including LGBTQIA+ folks - the hardest. The proposal to assess reproductive health care services offered by the County and its health care contractors will benefit LGBTQIA+ people, and is aligned with the County of San Diego's own stated commitments to health equity and reproductive freedom.

Additionally, I applaud the efforts to focus the County's advocacy in support of State regulatory, budgetary, and legislative efforts related to reproductive health care services and rights. The constitutional right to privacy, guaranteed under the California Constitution, unequivocally includes a pregnant person's right to choose whether or not to continue a pregnancy or have an abortion. While this protection is clear, we can and must do more in California in the face of others who will tear down this fundamental constitutional right across our nation. The Board Letter supporting a constitutional amendment to enshrine the right to abortion is the right action for the County of San Diego to take to meet this moment.

Founded in 1974, San Diego Pride is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is: Fostering pride, equality, and respect for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities locally, nationally, and globally. [www.sdpride.org](http://www.sdpride.org)

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San Diego Pride enthusiastically supports the reproductive health care assessment proposed by Vice Chair Vargas and Chair Fletcher. San Diego Pride also enthusiastically supports the resolution supporting the constitutional amendment enshrining permanent protections for abortion which has been proposed by Vice Chair Vargas and Supervisor Lawson-Remer. I look forward to working alongside you in partnership to help make the County of San Diego and California the strongest Reproductive Freedom County and State in the nation, and a County and State that pushes toward equity for **all** people.

Sincerely,

Jen LaBarbera  
Director of Education and Advocacy  
San Diego Pride