

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 25

**SUBJECT: IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO AMEND THE CALIFORNIA STATE
CONSTITUTION TO ENSHRINE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

This year marked the 49th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 United States Supreme Court decision that determined the U.S. Constitution provides a right to privacy that protects a person’s right to terminate a pregnancy. Prior to *Roe v. Wade*, abortion had been illegal throughout much of the country. The Supreme Court is poised to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and thereby allow states to make abortion illegal within their borders.

Research suggests that the health of pregnant people will be put at risk without the right to choose, and maternal deaths will be inequitably concentrated among people living in poverty and people of color, with Black individuals already three times more likely to die during birth than white individuals.

As a result of years of advocacy, California has been recognized as the state with the strongest protections of rights to reproductive freedom. In light of the possibility that *Roe v. Wade* could be overturned, Governor Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore, and California Assembly Speaker are seeking to ensure the State Constitution reflects these California values. In contrast, if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, over two dozen states are likely to ban abortions or severely restrict access, with at least 13 states already having passed “trigger laws” that would ban abortions immediately or shortly after such a decision.

This board letter recommends that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors adopt a resolution to formally support efforts to enshrine in the California Constitution a person’s right to choose whether to give birth. The proposed resolution is consistent with this Board’s previous actions. On September 20, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved a board letter “Declaring San Diego County a Reproductive Justice Champion.” In that vote, the Board chose to “model and commit to defend and fight for reproductive freedom and welcome all those seeking to fully exercise their reproductive rights and access safe legal abortion.” This action will help to ensure there is no doubt as to the right to abortion in our region and State and demonstrate the County of San Diego stands with all as a safe harbor for a woman’s right to choose.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

VICE-CHAIR NORA VARGAS AND SUPERVISOR TERRA LAWSON-REMER

Adopt the Resolution titled: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO AMEND THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION TO ENSHRINE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Restrictions and bans that violate reproductive freedom disproportionately impact populations that already face barriers to accessing care-people of color, people with low incomes, immigrants, and young people. Access to abortion has often been a right in name only, with many unable to access the medical procedure due to restrictive laws, financial hardships, and other barriers. As states around the country enact extreme laws that violate the fundamental right to decide whether or not to terminate a pregnancy, the County of San Diego is committed to continuing to uphold reproductive freedom for all.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today’s recommended actions. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Vargas, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, adopting Resolution No. 22-058 entitled: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO AMEND THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION TO ENSHRINE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE.

AYES: Vargas, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher

NOES: Desmond

ABSENT: Anderson

State of California)
County of San Diego)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter