

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

MINUTE ORDER NO. 24

**SUBJECT: STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE:
CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AND
ADVOCATING FOR STATE LEGISLATION AND FUNDING FOR SUCH
SERVICES AND RIGHTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The United States Supreme Court is poised to rule on a case that directly challenges *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark case that held the right to privacy protects a pregnant person's right to choose whether to have an abortion. This ruling has the possibility of magnifying the inequities of access to abortion care in the nation.

Based on California's leadership on reproductive health care rights and the County of San Diego's ("County") stated commitment to health equity and reproductive freedom, ensuring that there is broad public access to a full scope of reproductive health care services is paramount. The County is responsible for the public health in our region and therefore has a duty and responsibility to assess our role in ensuring that people have access to reproductive health care.

This Board Letter requests that the County develop a comprehensive understanding of the scope of reproductive health care services offered by the County of San Diego and County health care contractors. Additionally, the Board Letter recommends advocating for regulatory, budgetary, and legislative efforts to support full access to reproductive health care services and the protection of reproductive rights in California.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

VICE-CHAIR NORA VARGAS AND CHAIR NATHAN FLETCHER

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

1. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of reproductive health care services offered by the County of San Diego and County health care contractors, including barriers to care, opportunities to optimize reproductive health care services and to expand partnerships with reproductive health care providers, opportunities to reduce and address health disparities for marginalized communities, and report back to the Board of Supervisors in 150 days.
2. In support of the findings from Recommendation One, and in accordance with Board Policies M1 and M2, advocate for regulatory, budgetary, and legislative efforts that strengthen access to reproductive rights and health care services, including abortion.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Restrictions and bans that violate reproductive health care options disproportionately impact populations that already face barriers to accessing care-people of color, people with low incomes, immigrants, and young people. The implications of changes in national law could magnify this inequity both in other regions of the country and here in San Diego. Reproductive health care access is tied to maternal and infant mortality outcomes and sexually transmitted infection rates, treatment, and prevention. By assessing issues related to access to services, the County can find ways to reduce health disparities for people who have traditionally had difficulty obtaining services.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's recommended actions though they may result in future fiscal impacts. Staff will return to the Board for consideration and approval of any such impacts. There will be no change in net General Fund cost 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.

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

