

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A Resolution in Support of Efforts to Amend the California Constitution to Enshrine the Right to Choose

WHEREAS, the rights of all Americans and Californians are at risk, and the lives of millions of people will be personally affected, if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, for several generations, the landmark *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision has protected an individual's right to privacy to choose to have an abortion in all states in the nation; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, the *Roe v. Wade* decision was supported by a bipartisan 7-2 majority in 1973, with the majority opinion written by a Supreme Court justice nominated by a Republican president, and affirmed by justices nominated by Democrat and Republican presidents alike; and

WHEREAS, this bipartisan support for the right to choose remains strong among the public, with an overwhelming majority of California adults opposing the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* according to a 2021 survey conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California; and

WHEREAS, not a single demographic group in this survey supports overturning *Roe v. Wade*, with a majority of men, women, Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and all ethnic groups backing the right to choose, including 77 percent of Californians, 79 percent of likely state voters, and 80 percent in Orange County and San Diego; and

WHEREAS, over two dozen states are likely to ban abortions or severely restrict access if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, with at least 13 states already having passed "trigger laws" that would outlaw abortions immediately or shortly after such a decision; and

WHEREAS, with a reversal of *Roe v. Wade* threatening to eliminate the federal right to choose, it is crucial that the State of California amend the California Constitution to protect the right to abortion in the State, and make that choice available to all who seek access within state lines; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the County of San Diego resolved that it supports reproductive rights and is committed to defending and fighting for the right to choose, and continues to welcome all those seeking to fully exercise their reproductive rights and access a safe and legal abortion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the County of San Diego supports enshrining the right to abortion in the California Constitution, and urges the State Legislature to approve, and the Governor to sign, legislation that will allow the voters to enshrine this right for all in California.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
LONNIE J. ELDRIDGE, COUNTY COUNSEL

BY: Rachel H. Witt, Chief Deputy