

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#24

**Tuesday,
May 24, 2022**

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

From: [Poppy Fitch](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Amy Swazey](#); [Molly Terbovich-Ridenhour](#)
Subject: [External] Women's March Statement to the San Diego Board of Supervisors on Reproductive Freedom
Date: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 7:44:53 AM

Women's March Full Comment to the San Diego Board of Supervisors on Reproductive Freedom

Chair Fletcher, Vice Chair Vargas, Board of Supervisors,

I write today on behalf of Women's March San Diego to express our appreciation to the Board for its swift and decision action in support of Reproductive Rights.

Regarding items 24 and 25 on today's agenda, Woman's March San Diego extends our unequivocal support for these two proposed actions.

Among our Woman's March San Diego unity principles is the believe in Reproductive Freedom. We do not accept any federal, state or local rollbacks, cuts or restrictions on our ability to access quality reproductive healthcare services, birth control, HIV/AIDS care and prevention, or medically accurate sexuality education. This means open access to safe, legal, affordable abortion and birth control for all people, regardless of income, location or education.

We understand that we are at a crisis moment for abortion access. The Supreme Court seems prepared to end the constitutional right to abortion. This makes state and local action in support of reproductive rights and the freedom to choose a crucial step in protecting the rights of Women and gender minorities in California. This is timely, as the Court has expressed their ultimate goal is to pass a nationwide abortion ban that would block abortion access in every state in the country.

Since this new round of attacks on Reproductive Freedom began in September, 2021, Women's March San Diego has been proud to be with the Board of Supervisors in solidarity and commitment to bodily autonomy and the right to choose, and we are with you today.

Most Sincerely,

Poppy Fitch, Ed.D. | Founding Board Member

Women's March San Diego

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Action Fund of the Pacific Southwest

1075 Camino Del Rio S
San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 881-4500
May 23, 2022

**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)**

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

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

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

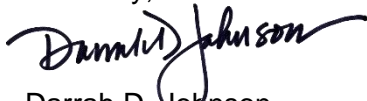
Under the leadership of Vice Chair Nora Vargas, the County of San Diego has become a true Reproductive Freedom County. While other regions in the nation are moving backward by restricting fundamental reproductive rights, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors is moving forward to focus on access to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

Based on the County of San Diego's stated commitment to health equity and reproductive freedom, it is important for the County to understand the barriers to reproductive health care in its jurisdiction, as well as the opportunities to optimize such services and how its partnerships with reproductive health care providers can be expanded. I fully support the proposal to assess sexual and reproductive health care services offered by the County and its health care contractors.

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.

I fully support the reproductive health care assessment proposed by Vice Chair Vargas and Chair Fletcher. Additionally, I encourage the Board of Supervisors to adopt the resolution supporting the constitutional amendment enshrining permanent protections for abortion which has been proposed by Vice Chair Vargas and Supervisor Lawson Remer. I am here to work alongside you in partnership to help make the County of San Diego and California the strongest Reproductive Freedom County and State in the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Darrah D. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Darrah" and last name "Johnson" clearly legible.

Darrah D. Johnson
President & CEO