

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 3

**SUBJECT: DECLARING THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO A CHAMPION FOR
REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

In 1973, the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade* ruled that the Constitution of the United States protects a pregnant person's liberty to choose whether to terminate a pregnancy or not. This was a landmark legal decision that struck down a Texas statute banning abortion, effectively legalizing the procedure across the United States. Prior to *Roe v. Wade*, abortion had been illegal throughout much of the country.

For decades, the State of California has served as a model for providing and protecting access to reproductive health care. In 1969, even before the United States Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*, the California Supreme Court recognized that the fundamental right of a person to choose whether to bear children is protected by the U.S. Constitution. Additionally, in 1972, the people of California recognized the significance of a person's right to reproductive freedom by amending the California Constitution to enshrine a right to privacy.

California has been recognized as the state with the strongest protections of rights to reproductive freedom. As the second largest county in the state, and in light of recent attacks on abortion rights in other states, the County of San Diego should serve as a model and commit to defend and fight for reproductive freedom. Although abortions are legal in San Diego County, individuals still face barriers to reproductive access. On a daily basis, healthcare providers across the county work to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and keep people healthy. As the agency tasked with promoting wellness, self-sufficiency, and a better quality of life for our residents, the County of San Diego has a responsibility to be a champion for reproductive freedom.

Today's action demonstrates the County of San Diego's strong commitment to safe and legal abortion access.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

VICE-CHAIR NORA VARGAS

Adopt the Resolution titled: A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO A CHAMPION FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

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 continues to be 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 must continue to uphold reproductive freedom for all.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation.

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. 21-147 entitled: A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO A CHAMPION FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM.

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