

ALAMEDA COUNTY MAYORS' CONFERENCE

Resolution No. 1.22

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY MAYORS' CONFERENCE RELATING TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE; DECLARING OPPOSITION TO THE OPINION IN *DOBBS V. JACKSON WOMEN'S HEALTH ORGANIZATION*; DENOUNCING STATE LAWS AND OTHER PROVISIONS CRIMINALIZING ABORTION; SUPPORTING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF PREGNANT PERSONS, INCLUDING THEIR ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE AND ABORTIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, access to health care promotes the general welfare; and

WHEREAS, access to reproductive health care is critical to women's physical, psychological, and socioeconomic well-being; and

WHEREAS, abortion is a safe medical intervention that roughly one in four women have had in their lifetime;¹ and

WHEREAS, the right to decide to have an abortion before viability has been a legal right for nearly 50 years; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturns the constitutional right to abortion and the right to choose as recognized in *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), and reaffirmed in *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992); and

WHEREAS, State legislatures, including those in Arizona, Mississippi, Texas, and West Virginia, have adopted laws banning abortions generally after 15 weeks of gestation except in narrowly defined medical emergencies,² and also providing that physicians who violate the ban are guilty of a criminal offense and subject to penalties;³ and

WHEREAS, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and other prominent medical organizations have determined that abortion bans will harm, rather than improve, patient health;⁴ and

WHEREAS, the narrow medical emergency exceptions in State laws, such as Mississippi, do not adequately protect patients in instances of serious medical conditions that may not qualify as "medical emergencies;"⁵ and

WHEREAS, abortion bans disproportionately target minority and lower-income patients, with up to 75% of those seeking abortion care living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, and the majority identifying as Black, Hispanic, Asian, or Pacific Islander;⁶ and

WHEREAS, forcing patients to continue pregnancy subjects them to complications and a risk of death that is 14-times higher than abortion;⁷ and

WHEREAS, research shows that women denied a wanted abortion are less financially secure in subsequent years than those who received an abortion, and being denied an abortion increases the chances that a woman's existing children live in poverty.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ALAMEDA COUNTY MAYORS' CONFERENCE DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE AND ORDER THE FOLLOWING:

SECTION 1. The Alameda County Mayors' Conference supports the rights of pregnant persons to obtain access to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare, including the right to choose abortion care.

SECTION 2. The Alameda County Mayors' Conference opposes the Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

SECTION 3. The Alameda County Mayors' Conference denounces and opposes the implementation of State laws that prohibit and criminalize abortions, which will harm pregnant persons' autonomy and well-being.

SECTION 4. The Alameda County Mayors' Conference supports law enforcement priorities that consider the need to protect pregnant people's physical, psychological, and socioeconomic well-being and their care providers.

SECTION 5. WHEREAS it is necessary for the preservation of the peace, health, and safety that this Resolution become effective immediately, an emergency hereby is declared to exist, and this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Alameda County Mayors' Conference at its meeting on July 13, 2022.

I, Steven Bocian, Executive Director of the Alameda County Mayors' Conference, certify that the Alameda County Mayors' Conference adopted this resolution at its meeting held on the thirteenth day of July 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: Ezzy-Ashcraft, Arreguin, Bauters, Mei, Halliday, Nagy, City of Oakland Councilmember Reid, Brown, Russo Cutter, Dutra-Vernaci.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Jordan, Hernandez, Gray-King, Woerner,

ABSTENTION: None

¹ *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Brief of amici curiae Am. Coll. of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Am. Med. Ass'n., *et al.*, <https://reproductiverights.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Major-Medical-Groups-Amicus-Brief.pdf#page=23>.

² *To be codified as Gestational Limit on Abortion*, A.R.S. §§ 36-2321 to -2326.

³ A.R.S. §§ 36-2324 to -2325.

⁴ *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Brief of amici curiae American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Medical Association, *et al.*, https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/19/19-1392/193074/20210920174518042_19-1392%20bsacACOGetal.pdf#page=29

⁵*Id.* at https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/19/19-1392/193074/20210920174518042_19-1392%20bsacACOGetal.pdf#page=37⁷*Id.* at https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/19/19-1392/193074/20210920174518042_19-1392%20bsacACOGetal.pdf#page=39.

⁶ *Id.* at https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/19/19-1392/193074/20210920174518042_19-1392%20bsacACOGetal.pdf#page=40.

⁷*Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Brief of amici curiae Social Science Experts, https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/19/19-1392/192992/20210920145519814_19-1392_Amicus%20Brief.pdf#page=51.