

RESOLUTION NO. M-2348

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, DECLARING THE CITY OF OLYMPIA TO BE A SANCTUARY CITY FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE AND ABORTION SERVICES AS PERMITTED BY WASHINGTON STATE LAW, AND RECOGNIZING A WOMAN’S RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE

WHEREAS, the Olympia City Council has a demonstrated history of declaring Olympia to be a safe haven and sanctuary to those who are politically persecuted by declaring Olympia a Sanctuary City; and

WHEREAS, prior to the Supreme Court of the United States overturning *Roe v. Wade* in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, *Roe* had guaranteed a constitutional right to an abortion for nearly 50 years and a woman’s right to reproductive choice; and

WHEREAS, the Pew Research Center has reported a majority of the American public disapproves of the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* with 62% of Americans saying abortion should be legal in all or most cases, and that this majority view is little changed since before the Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs*; and

WHEREAS, the Pew Research Center survey also revealed that 62% of women disapprove of the Supreme Court’s decision to end the federal right to an abortion and that more than twice as many women strongly disapprove of the Court’s decision (47%) as strongly approve (21%); and

WHEREAS, the implications of the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade* will cause a strain on health care clinics that provide abortion services; threats to the public safety of all persons involved in the abortion process; exacerbation of the number of unwanted pregnancies coming to term; an increase in economic hardships for women and all people who can become pregnant forced to bear a child; and potentially putting other human rights at risk in the future; and

WHEREAS, the repeal of reproductive rights puts all rights to personal privacy at risk, including the right to use contraceptives as part of family planning, the right to marry a same sex partner, and the right to marry a person of a different race; and

WHEREAS, abortion is an essential reproductive health service, and its availability is an important part of every person’s right to safe and accessible health care; and

WHEREAS, that right to reproductive choice is vital to the ability of women and people who can get pregnant to protect the liberty, health and financial stability of their families; and

WHEREAS, Washington State law protects the individual fundamental right of privacy especially as it relates to personal reproductive decisions and shall not deny or interfere with a birthing person’s fundamental right to choose or refuse to have an abortion; and

WHEREAS, other state governments across the nation are passing laws that expressly ban abortion in those states; and

WHEREAS, some of this legislation also threatens those who receive abortions, as well as healthcare providers, with prison time;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

1. The City of Olympia expands its Sanctuary City status to include reproductive health; and
2. The City of Olympia is expressly and unequivocally Pro Choice; and supports the reproductive rights of all people and condemns any attempt to restrict, prohibit, or otherwise impede access to safe and legal abortion and reproductive health care; and
3. The City of Olympia shall refuse any requests that are an extension of any federal policy or policy of another state requiring enforcement actions against those seeking or receiving abortion care or services and shall not enter into any agreements to carry out enforcement actions of other jurisdictions, but leave such actions to those authorities; and
4. The Olympia City Council directs staff to research tools available to Washington cities that support choice and reproductive rights to include:
 - Financial assistance to reproductive rights and choice providers to assist lower income/marginalized community members;
 - Balancing First Amendment rights and a right to access medical care and reproductive health care;
 - Conduct outreach to local reproductive health and choice providers to learn how the City of Olympia can facilitate or partner with them to best support their services; and
 - Providing a resource for reproductive healthcare rights education including a directory of service providers and ensuring local crisis pregnancy clinics display factual signage and share accurate information about their services; and
 - Actions other cities are taking across the country to support and protect choice and reproductive rights.
5. The Olympia City Council directs the Community Livability and Public Safety Committee to add the items in Section 4 to their 2023 and 2024 Work Plan.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this 12th day of July 2022.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Mark Barber

CITY ATTORNEY