

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 26

Approved January 22, 2019

WHEREAS, The current state of the law, decided in 1973 by the Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade*, specifies a constitutional basis for the right to abortion grounded in "the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, which protects against state action the right to privacy, including a woman's qualified right to terminate her pregnancy"; and

WHEREAS, This right has been affirmed in subsequent Supreme Court cases such as *Casey* (1992) and *Whole Women's Health* (2016); and

WHEREAS, The legal status of *Roe v. Wade* at the Federal level is in imminent jeopardy with the appointment of Justice Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, establishing a majority of justices with a history of questioning *Roe v. Wade*; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of laws in other states have restricted the rights guaranteed by *Roe* in 2018 alone and at least a dozen of these cases which could restrict or eliminate *Roe* are one step from the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, An October 2018 poll conducted by the Providence Journal, The Public's Radio, and ABC6 indicates that seventy-one percent (71%) of Rhode Island voters support the RI General Assembly passing a bill to protect abortion rights in Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, The poll further shows the sixty-one percent (61%) of self-described Catholics in the state of Rhode Island support passing a bill in the General Assembly protecting abortion rights; and

WHEREAS, State Senator Gayle Goldin (D-3) and Representative Edie Ajello (D-1) introduced a bill, the Reproductive Health Care Act (RHCA), which would affirm the rights protected by *Roe v. Wade*; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, the RHCA would repeal several currently unconstitutional provisions restricting abortion rights; and

WHEREAS, Further, Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo, the most senior elected Democrat in the State, has stated a desire to "working with advocates and members of the General Assembly to get this passed this year" when referring to the RHCA; and

WHEREAS, The 2018 RI Democratic Party Platform states "as Democrats, we stand behind the right of every woman to make reproductive medical decisions about her own body in consultation with her doctor, without governmental prohibitions or burdensome restrictions, consistent with *Roe v. Wade*"; and

WHEREAS, As the elected representatives of the people of Providence, the Providence City Council has a moral obligation to speak out and support policies that protect abortion rights, reproductive health care rights, and women's rights to make decisions about her own body.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby support the Rhode Island Reproductive Health Care Act of 2019 and urges all members of the Rhode Island General Assembly support the RHCA and pass it, protecting women's rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the elected Rhode Island House and Senate representatives of the City of Providence.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JAN 17 2019

READ AND PASSED

Sabina Motos

PRES.

Low L. Hayes

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

[Signature]

Mayor

Date:

1/22/19