

RESOLUTION NO. 1498

A RESOLUTION OF THE EDMONDS CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF ACCESS TO A FULL RANGE OF REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, INCLUDING ABORTION SERVICES, AND URGING FEDERAL AND STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS TO CODIFY THESE RIGHTS

WHEREAS, our commitment to ensuring that Edmonds remains a welcoming, inclusive, and safe community for all who live, work and visit Edmonds was affirmed in Resolution No. 1381, passed by the Edmonds City Council on 1/10/2017; and

WHEREAS, reproductive freedom – including the right to make one of life’s most important decisions – whether or when to have children – is foundational to a person’s autonomy, dignity, and ability to participate fully in economic, social, and civic life; and

WHEREAS, throughout history, laws banning abortion do not stop them from happening, but instead made them unsafe, leading to pain, suffering, loss of fertility, and even death; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Washington state voters approved Referendum 20, making abortion services legal in Washington State through a vote of the people; and

WHEREAS, the right to abortion services was further supported on the National level for almost 50 years as a result of cases decided by the United States Supreme Court in 1973 (Roe v. Wade) and 1992 (Planned Parenthood v. Casey) until Roe v Wade was overturned on June 24, 2022; and

WHEREAS, according to reports published by the Guttmacher Institute, before Roe v. Wade, illegal abortions were estimated to range from 200,000 to 1.2 million per year and constituted at least 17 percent of all maternal deaths attributed to pregnancy and childbirth in 1965 alone; and

WHEREAS, according to a report published by the Guttmacher Institute, there would be a 385% increase in the potential number of people seeking an abortion care provider here in Washington State, which would create a burden on the care providers as well as constricting access to these services due to the demand; and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive Abortion Care is included in the list of essential health care services published by the World Health Organization in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association states that there is a preponderance of scientific data supporting the conclusion that freedom of choice and women's control over their critical life decisions promotes psychological health; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the loss of national protections of access to the full range of reproductive services, the overturn of Roe v. Wade opens the door to challenges to privacy rights, such as same-sex marriage and access to contraception, and could also set a legal

precedent used to overturn healthcare and other legal rights for LGBTQ people, while transgender care is already under assault; and

WHEREAS, laws restricting access to abortion disproportionately impact poor, rural, working-class, and persons of color who may not have the resources to cover the doctor fees, travel costs, childcare costs, and lost wages when seeking quality reproductive healthcare, because those who are wealthy have resources to obtain needed abortion care services; and

WHEREAS, with the legalization of abortion services in the United States, these procedures have led to safer practices and drastically reduced the incidences of maternal deaths and hospitalizations related to abortion services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF EDMONDS WASHINGTON THAT:

Section 1. The Edmonds City Council adopts this resolution to express its official position in support of amendments to the Washington State and the United States Constitutions to codify an individual's right to comprehensive, safe, and accessible reproductive healthcare, including abortion, contraception, gender-affirming healthcare, and marriage equality, and to urge our federal and state legislators to act in support of said rights.


Section 2. The Edmonds City Council directs that copies of this Resolution shall be sent to Governor Inslee and our State representatives as a means of showing our City's support for the passage of a Washington State Constitutional Amendment guaranteeing full access to abortion care services and increasing oversight over hospital mergers that have often interfered with the provision of reproductive health services for all people.

Section 3. The City of Edmonds pledges to be a supportive community for people from other states coming to the area for the full range of legal and safe reproductive services and gender-affirming healthcare available in Washington State.

Section 4. With the passage of this Resolution, it shall be the policy of the City of Edmonds to refrain from providing any cooperation or assistance whatsoever to any out-of-state law enforcement agency, public entity, or private party if the matter concerns abortion-related conduct or other reproductive health care or services that are lawful in Washington, including but not limited to declining to cooperate with an out-of-state subpoena, search warrant, or court order that has not been domesticated in Washington.

RESOLVED this 5TH Day of July, 2022.

APPROVED:



MAYOR, MICHAEL NELSON

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:


CITY CLERK, SCOTT PASSEY

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:
RESOLUTION NO.

July 5, 2022
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