

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RIGHT TO BODILY AUTONOMY AND SUPPORT OF A PERSON'S RIGHT TO ACCESS THE FULL SPECTRUM OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO ACCESS ABORTION REGARDLESS OF GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION, DOCUMENTATION STATUS, INCOME OR AGE.

WHEREAS, voters in Washington State have consistently affirmed a woman's right to reproductive freedom and privacy, as demonstrated by the passage of Initiative 120, the Reproductive Privacy Act, in 1991 and by the defeat of Initiative 694, which would have criminalized late-term abortions, in 1998; and

WHEREAS, every person needs access to the full range of safe, affordable and comprehensive reproductive health care throughout his/her/their life, including screenings for cancer and sexually transmitted infections, contraceptive services, abortion care, prenatal care, and labor and delivery services; and

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

WHEREAS, access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care options, including abortion care, is vital to public health; and

WHEREAS, some of these bills would prevent patients from seeking an abortion and threaten doctors with prison time and fines for performing abortions in their capacity as medical professionals; and

WHEREAS, those bills will have profound negative impacts on the health of residents who are able to become pregnant by effectively eliminating access to all legal abortion services; and

WHEREAS, policy makers should focus on supportive services to reduce unintended pregnancies and promote the success of all families by investing in comprehensive sex education, access to contraceptives, and quality affordable childcare, to improve public health.

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

The City Council of the City of Bellingham:

- (1.) supports the right to bodily autonomy and supports a person's right to access the full spectrum of reproductive health care services including the right to access abortion care regardless of gender identity and expression, documentation status, income or age.
- (2.) does not support any attempt by a state, federal, or local government to restrict, prohibit, or otherwise impede access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care options including abortion care.
- (3.) does not support any attempt of a private or non-profit organization to restrict access by withholding services, information or referrals related to reproductive health care including abortion care.
- (4.) is committed to ensuring the residents of Bellingham have access to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare services, including abortion care regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, document status or income.
- (5.) remains committed to eliminating abortion stigma, so that everyone who has had an abortion, might have an abortion, or provides abortion care will feel supported, welcome, and safe in Bellingham.

PASSED by the Council this ____ day of _____, 2019.

Council President

APPROVED by me this ____ day of _____, 2019.

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