

**MOTION**

## Preserving Women Reproductive Rights

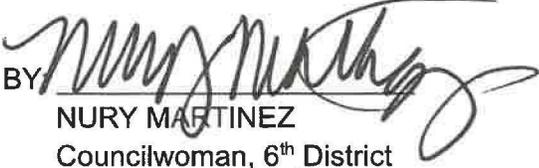
Women in the United States have had to fight for decades to gain control over their own bodies – a basic human right. Unfortunately, 49 years after the *Roe v. Wade* decision, which affirmed an individual's right to decide whether or not to have an abortion, the fight continues and women's rights are once again under attack. In December 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Clinic*, which centers on Mississippi's 2018 "Gestational Age Act" prohibiting abortions after the fifteenth week, before the fetus becomes viable. While we maintain hope that the Supreme Court will affirm the decisions of the lower courts, we must prepare for the stark possibility that *Roe v. Wade* may be overturned, allowing states to fully ban or restrict abortion access.

Thankfully, the Governor and California legislators stand in support of the *Roe v. Wade* decision and have declared California open to out-of-state individuals seeking access to abortion. As one of the major cities in the state, Los Angeles is likely to see an inflow of patients. According to a report by Planned Parenthood, "people in over half of the states in the country –over 36 million women and other people who may become pregnant– will lose access to abortion care." Projections by the Guttmacher Institute indicate that California is likely to see an increase of 46,000 to 1.4 million women of reproductive age (15-49) whose nearest provider would be in California– that is about a 3,000% increase. As a City that has often led this country towards progressive values, the City must prepare to be a refuge for people seeking abortions. For many people, terminating a pregnancy can be a lifeline preventing them from living in poverty or becoming homeless. But no matter the reasons or circumstances, all people have a right to privacy and should have a choice over their bodies.

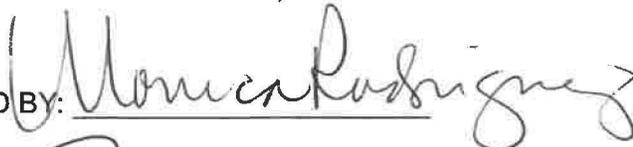
**I THEREFORE MOVE**, that the City Attorney be requested to file an amicus brief in support of the Jackson Women's Health Clinic's position and the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Clinic*; and

**I FURTHER MOVE**, that the City Council direct the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to coordinate the City's response with the County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services and Department of Public Health, and identify ways the City could respond to the possible increase in demand, including at the City's transportation hubs (LAX, Union Station, etc).

PRESENTED BY:

  
NURY MARTINEZ  
Councilwoman, 6<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



APR 08 2022

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