

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING WOMEN'S HEALTH AND EQUAL ACCESS TO ABORTION

- WHEREAS,** the Resolution to Support Women's Health was passed by the Durham County Board of Commissioners on April 9, 2018, affirming accessible, safe, affordable and comprehensive reproductive health care services, including abortions, and called for the repeal of the Hyde Amendment; and
- WHEREAS,** the right to an abortion has been chipped away since then. North Carolina targeted regulations on abortion providers to include requiring them to perform an ultrasound, send ultrasounds to the Department of Health and Human Services and banning state funding to abortion providers; and the North Carolina general assembly recently passed the "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protections Act," later vetoed by Governor Cooper, where any violation was a class D felony, punishable by imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine; and
- WHEREAS,** this bill perpetuates the false narrative that abortion frequently occurs immediately before or at the time of birth, interferes with private health care decisions, disregarding clinical practice guidelines put forth by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and makes no mention of the evidentiary guidelines for prosecution; and
- WHEREAS,** approximately 22% of Durham County residents are people who can become pregnant, whose health and ability to economically, socially and educationally success is linked to reproductive health care and access to abortion; and
- WHEREAS,** the federal "Women's Health Protection Act of 2019" aims to "protect a woman's ability to determine whether and when to bear a child or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide reproductive health care services, including abortion services". And the federal "Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH Woman) Act of 2017" aims to "ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every woman, and for other purposes".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Durham Board of County Commissioners does hereby firmly support reproductive health care and publicly denounce any laws that hinder reproductive rights and access to reproductive care. We call for the "Women's Health Protection Act of 2019" and the "Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance Act of 2017" to be passed by Congress, thereby further protecting the choice of pregnant individuals in Durham County to or when to bear a child or terminate a pregnancy and to ensure the monetary cost of an abortion is covered under all and any health care insurances, whether private or public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we ask federal Senators, House Representatives and the President of the United States to pass these Acts and sign them into law immediately.

This the 14th day of September, 2020.

Wendy Jacobs, Chair

James Hill, Jr., Vice-Chair

Heidi Carter

Brenda A. Howerton

Ellen W. Reckhow

