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Board of Supervisors Passes Resolution in Support of Reproductive Rights in Alameda County

Leaked Supreme Court Draft Decision Threatens to Overturn Landmark Roe v. Wade Precedent

Oakland – The Alameda County Board of Supervisors today unanimously passed a resolution reaffirming the County’s commitment to reproductive justice and the protection of abortion rights throughout the County and nation. The Board’s action was taken following the leaked draft decision by the United States Supreme Court that is expected to overturn the precedent of *Roe v. Wade*, which would end nearly 50 years of protections for reproductive rights, disproportionately impact persons of color and low-income individuals, and exacerbate health, social, and economic inequities.

The resolution passed today by the Board calls upon the Supreme Court to uphold its own precedent established by *Roe v. Wade* and protect the right to abortion in the United States, as well as calling on Congress to pass the Women’s Health Protection Act, which would codify reproductive freedoms throughout the nation. It also affirmed support for an amendment to the State Constitution proposed by Governor Gavin Newsom that would permanently protect the reproductive rights of California residents.

“As the Board of Supervisors declared earlier this year, Alameda County is a proud defender of reproductive freedom for all,” said Board President Keith Carson. “We will continue to protect autonomy in reproductive decisions and access to health care.”

Today’s vote follows a previous action taken by the Board of Supervisors, who passed a resolution proclaiming Alameda County as a defender of health equity and reproductive freedom. The proclamation, which was introduced by President Carson at the Board’s January 11, 2022 meeting, was intended to celebrate the 49th Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* and was brought forth in anticipation of the Supreme Court potentially taking action to overturn established reproductive protections.

“The reversal of *Roe v. Wade* would have a devastating impact on reproductive freedoms in America – freedoms that are essential to protecting racial, economic, and gender-based justice,” said District 3 Supervisor Dave Brown. “I’m proud that the Board of Supervisors has taken immediate and decisive action to defend these rights on behalf of all Alameda County residents.”

Roe v. Wade was decided by the Supreme Court in 1973 by a 7-2 vote – including five affirmative votes by Republican appointees – and established a nationwide precedent that protected the reproductive rights and choices of American women. Several subsequent Court decisions – most notably *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* in 1992 – reaffirmed the core tenets of the *Roe* decision. In recent years, national polls have consistently reflected that a solid majority of Americans have supported the health and reproductive freedoms provided by *Roe* – a stark contrast to the Court’s expected ruling in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*.

Currently, 13 states have “trigger laws” in place that would effectively eliminate the right to have an abortion should the leaked decision ultimately be affirmed by the Supreme Court. In addition, at least six other states have also passed bans or severe restrictions on reproductive rights that could take effect when the Court’s decision is finalized. Without *Roe v. Wade* in place, more than half of U.S. states could eventually decide to ban abortion or enact extreme restrictions. In addition to deepening societal inequities and proving most detrimental to people of color and low-income populations, this change would undermine individual freedoms such as the right to privacy established by the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.