

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2022

**AFFIRMING** Cincinnati City Council’s support for an individual’s right to make basic, fundamental choices about their own reproductive health; **DENOUNCING** the rationale and holding of the Supreme Court of the United States of America in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*; **EXPRESSING** Council’s position that access to contraceptive aids and control, including access to safe abortion, is a fundamental right of all those with the ability to conceive; **EXPRESSING** City Council’s and the Mayor’s commitment to protecting these fundamental rights of all Cincinnatians; and further **EXPRESSING** opposition to a total ban on abortion in the State of Ohio.

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States issued its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, which overturned almost 50 years of legal precedent allowing women and others to seek abortion if they so chose; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States previously established a constitutional protection for safe, legal abortion nearly fifty years ago in *Roe v. Wade*; and

WHEREAS, the decision in *Dobbs* reversed that constitutional protection in a direct attack on the bodily autonomy of half of American citizens; and

WHEREAS, the *Dobbs* decision stands to deprive millions of Americans of the human right to make a basic, fundamental choice about their reproductive health; and

WHEREAS, a moral, medical, and ethical consensus exists among healthcare practitioners that access to abortion should be safe and legal; and

WHEREAS, healthcare practitioners widely agree that restrictions on bodily autonomy, reproductive health, and access to abortion are fundamentally at odds with the provision of safe and essential health care, scientific evidence, and medical ethics; and

WHEREAS, an amicus brief was filed in support of the Respondents in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* by twenty-four of the preeminent organizations representing American medical practitioners: the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics; the American College of Nurse-Midwives; the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists; the American College of Physicians; the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society; the American Medical Women’s Association; the American Psychiatric Association; the American Society for Reproductive Medicine; the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses; the Council of University Chairs of Obstetrics and Gynecology; GLMA: Health Professionals Advocating for LGBTQ Equality; North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology; the National Medical Association; the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health; the Society for Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics and

Gynecology; the Society of Family Planning; the Society of General Internal Medicine; the Society of Gynecologic Oncology; and the Society of OB/GYN Hospitalists; and

WHEREAS, within hours of the release of the decision, a federal court removed an injunction on a 2019 Ohio law that limited abortion rights and allowed it to take effect; and

WHEREAS, millions of Ohioans are now subject to a ban on abortions as early as six weeks, when many women may not even know that they are pregnant, and when those who do know will now be arbitrarily rushed into making a substantial decision about their reproductive health; and

WHEREAS, legislators in the state government have already begun discussing passing a total ban on abortion in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, such a ban stands to further deprive people in Cincinnati and all across Ohio of their basic human dignity by taking away their right to privacy and control of their own bodies and healthcare decisions; and

WHEREAS, Council opposes any attempt to further restrict abortion access in the State of Ohio, and calls upon the state government to immediately repeal the restrictions that are now coming into effect; and

WHEREAS, Council encourages its citizens to support any future constitutional referendum seeking to enshrine in the Ohio Constitution a right of privacy or a right to make one's own fundamental healthcare decisions; and

WHEREAS, Council extends its thoughts and support to all those who stand to be negatively impacted by the decision in *Dobbs*; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati will advocate for the rights of all people with the potential for conception until and beyond a true guarantee for fundamental equality and equity under the laws of the United States, the State of Ohio, the County of Hamilton, and the City of Cincinnati; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council affirm their support for a person's right to control their reproductive health both in Ohio and the United States.

Section 2. That the Mayor and this Council strongly disagree with the rationale and holding of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, issued by the Supreme Court of the United States on June 24, 2022.

Section 3. That the Mayor and this Council fully oppose all legislation that might be introduced at the federal or state level to limit access to safe abortion or to criminalize providing, assisting, or seeking out an abortion.

Section 4. That the Mayor and this Council support the right of any person to make decisions to conceive or not, as it is a personal choice that belongs to the individual, not to the overreach of government.

Section 5. That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that copies be provided to the U.S. Senators for Ohio, Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman; to the U.S. Representatives for the City of Cincinnati, Steve Chabot and Brad Wenstrup; to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General for the State of Ohio; to Cincinnati’s delegation in the Ohio General Assembly; and to the County Commissioners for Hamilton County.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Meeka D. Owens, Mayor Aftab Pureval, Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, Councilmembers Jeff Cramerding, Reggie Harris, Mark Jeffreys, Scotty Johnson, Greg Landsman, and Victoria Parks