

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2022, Legislative Day No. 14

Resolution No. 31-22

Introduced by Ms. Rodvien

By the County Council, July 5, 2022

1 RESOLUTION in support of women’s right to safe, comprehensive reproductive  
2 health care and in opposition to the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* by the Supreme Court’s  
3 decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*

4  
5 WHEREAS, on June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States issued its  
6 decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, holding that the  
7 United States Constitution does not confer a right to abortion, and overruling its  
8 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*; and

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10 WHEREAS, comprehensive abortion care is included in the list of essential health  
11 care services published by the World Health Organization in 2020; and

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13 WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization, a lack of access to safe,  
14 affordable, timely, and respectful abortion care poses serious risks to women’s  
15 physical and mental health; and

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17 WHEREAS, women should be able to consult with their doctor, family, and faith  
18 about personal, private medical decisions; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, states enacted twice as many anti-choice laws in 2011 as they did in  
21 the previous year, including laws that force women who choose abortion care to  
22 undergo a forced ultrasound procedure against their will, even if their doctors do  
23 not recommend one; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, eight states since 2010 have enacted laws that ban abortion at 20  
26 weeks, regardless of the women’s situation, without exceptions to protect her  
27 health; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, in 2011 the U.S. House of Representatives voted to defund Title X,  
30 the only federal program exclusively dedicated to family-planning and  
31 reproductive-health care, and in 2017 voted to defund Planned Parenthood,  
32 jeopardizing access to birth control, cancer screenings, and other basic health care  
33 for millions of Americans; and

34  
35 WHEREAS, reproductive-health care and the overwhelming majority of services  
36 provided by health centers like Planned Parenthood are basic health care for  
37 women, including cancer screenings and breast exams; and

1 WHEREAS, for many women with limited incomes, health clinics are their point  
2 of entry into the healthcare system and their ongoing source of primary care  
3 services; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, these programs are essential to reducing rates of unintended  
6 pregnancy and preventing the increase of the number of fatalities among women  
7 with cervical and breast cancers who are not diagnosed until the cancers are in the  
8 late stages; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, when health clinics close and health care services disappear in states  
11 with laws restricting the right to choose, individuals with low incomes, and Black,  
12 Indigenous, and People of Color (“BIPOC”) are disproportionately impacted by  
13 restricting access to abortion care; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, when these services disappear, more women are likely to delay or  
16 forego treatment for diseases that will ultimately imperil their lives and lead to  
17 highly expensive Medicaid and Medicare bills borne by taxpayers; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, the Harvard School of Public Health reports that restricting abortion  
20 access increases negative health outcomes and does not result in fewer abortions,  
21 but compels individuals to risk their health and their lives by seeking unsafe  
22 abortions; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, a 2021 research article published by Duke University Press estimated  
25 that banning abortions in the United States would lead to a 21% increase in the  
26 number of pregnancy-related deaths overall and a 33% increase in pregnancy-  
27 related deaths among Black women; now, therefore, be it

28  
29 *Resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, That it hereby*  
30 *supports women’s right to safe, comprehensive reproductive health care and opposes any*  
31 *effort to deprive women of their right to reproductive freedom or the right to bodily*  
32 *autonomy; and be it further*

33  
34 *Resolved, That it supports and urges Congress and the State of Maryland to pursue laws*  
35 *and agendas that reaffirm fundamental rights and improve women’s access to safe and*  
36 *comprehensive reproductive-health care; and be it further*

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38 *Resolved, That it supports and urges the State of Maryland to pursue an amendment to*  
39 *the Maryland Constitution that solidifies the right to abortion care in Maryland; and be it*  
40 *further*

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42 *Resolved, That it urges the Governor of Maryland release the \$3.5 million designated*  
43 *by the State for training new abortion care providers as soon as they become available on*  
44 *July 1st, particularly in light of the anticipated increase in women from other states seeking*  
45 *services in Maryland; and be it further*

46  
47 *Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to County Executive Stuart Pittman;*  
48 *Maryland Governor Lawrence J. Hogan Jr.; Senator Bill Ferguson, President of the Senate,*  
49 *Maryland Senate; Delegate Adrienne A. Jones, House Speaker, Maryland House of*

- 1 Delegates; U.S. Senators Benjamin L. Cardin and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr.; U.S.
- 2 Representatives C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, John P. Sarbanes, Anthony G. Brown, and
- 3 Steny H. Hoyer.

READ AND PASSED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022.

By Order:



Laura Corby  
Administrative Officer

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT RESOLUTION NO. 31-22 IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND DULY ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.



Lisa D. B. Rodvien  
Chair