



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 16126

Proposed No. 2022-0190.2

Sponsors Balducci, Kohl-Welles,
Dembowski, Upthegrove, Perry, Zahilay
and McDermott

1 A MOTION in support of reproductive freedom and Roe v.

2 Wade.

3 WHEREAS, the ability to terminate a pregnancy is a fundamental part of
4 reproductive freedom for women, and

5 WHEREAS, women have sought abortions throughout the history of the United
6 States, from colonial times to today, and

7 WHEREAS, until the middle of the nineteenth century, abortions before
8 "quickening," which is when the woman can feel the fetus moving, were legal in many
9 states consistent with Common Law, and

10 WHEREAS, the movement to ban abortions developed over the course of the
11 latter part of the nineteenth century, driven by news stories of women dying as a result of
12 abortion procedures and by an organized effort by male doctors and the American
13 Medical Association, and

14 WHEREAS, historical evidence suggests that even as states imposed increasing
15 restrictions on abortions, public sentiment supported the right to terminate a pregnancy,
16 especially before quickening, through the nineteenth century, and

17 WHEREAS, in the 1950s and 1960s, it is estimated there were between 200,000
18 and 1.2 million women underwent illegal abortions each year in the United States,
19 creating significant risk of injury and death for women, and

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20 WHEREAS, by 1965, illegal abortion accounted for 17 percent of all deaths
21 attributed to pregnancy and childbirth; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1970, Washington state voters approved Referendum 20, making
23 Washington state become the first state to legalize abortion through a vote of the people,
24 and

25 WHEREAS, in 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Roe v. Wade* that abortion
26 bans during the first trimester of pregnancy were a violation of a woman's right to privacy
27 under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
28 Specifically, the court ruled that "For the stage prior to approximately the end of the first
29 trimester, the abortion decision and its effectuation must be left to the medical judgment
30 of the pregnant woman's attending physician," and

31 WHEREAS, in 1991, Washington state voters approved Initiative 120, which
32 declared that a woman has a right to choose a physician-performed abortion prior to
33 viability of the fetus, which is approximately 24 to 25 weeks into the pregnancy, and

34 WHEREAS, in 1992, in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the U.S. Supreme Court
35 reaffirmed the *Roe v. Wade* decision and stated that "The woman's right to terminate her
36 pregnancy before viability is the most central principle of *Roe v. Wade*. It is a rule of law
37 and a component of liberty we cannot renounce," and

38 WHEREAS, a recently leaked draft decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's*
39 *Health Organization* indicates that the six conservative members of the U.S. Supreme
40 Court might imminently overturn the *Roe v. Wade* decision, leaving it to individual states
41 to allow or ban abortions, and

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42 WHEREAS, making abortions illegal will not stop individuals from needing and
43 seeking them, and

44 WHEREAS, the impact of abortion bans falls disproportionately on people of
45 color, low-income people and other already-marginalized groups who do not have the
46 financial resources to find safe abortions, and

47 WHEREAS, abortion procedures and medications, such as mifepristone, are
48 medically safe, and

49 WHEREAS, according to a May 2022 CNN poll, 66 percent of Americans
50 support the Roe v. Wade decision and only 34 percent support overturning it, and

51 WHEREAS, as many as 26 states, including 13 that have trigger bans that would
52 take effect immediately, are certain or likely to ban abortions if Roe v. Wade is
53 overturned, denying reproductive freedom in large geographic sections of the United
54 States, and

55 WHEREAS, if Roe v. Wade is overturned and states implement bans on abortion,
56 Washington state would likely become the closest abortion provider for many more
57 individuals, with projected increases ranging from 20 percent if nearby states
58 implemented 20-week bans to 385 percent if those states implemented total bans,
59 according to the Guttmacher Institute, and

60 WHEREAS, the overturn of Roe v. Wade opens the door to other challenges to
61 privacy rights, such as same-sex marriage and access to contraception, and

62 WHEREAS, women cannot be truly free and equal members of our nation if they
63 cannot have autonomy over their own bodies;

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

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65 A. The council declares its support of a woman's right to reproductive freedom
66 and of Roe v. Wade as settled law of the land.

67 B. In furtherance of the council's declaration, it requests that the director of
68 public health – Seattle & King County exercise the discretion granted under Board of
69 Health Code in BOH 4A.10.040 and actively enforce BOH chapter 4A.10 related to
70 limited service pregnancy centers, allocate necessary funding to do so if needed, and
71 defend any challenges to the rule and its enforcement.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:

Claudia Balducci

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Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Melani Pedroza

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Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

Certificate Of Completion

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	Seattle, WA 98104
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 claudia.balducci@kingcounty.gov
 King County General (ITD)
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Melani Pedroza
 melani.pedroza@kingcounty.gov
 Clerk of the Council
 King County Council
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Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp

Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Signing Complete	Security Checked	5/10/2022 5:36:31 PM
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