

RESOLUTION NO.

SECTION 1: Restore Funding

WHEREAS, access to preventive healthcare is vitally important to the health and well-being of women and their babies and detects health problems, facilitates early treatment, helps women prepare for a healthy pregnancy, and helps them avoid unplanned pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, one in three Texas women of childbearing age are uninsured and many Austin and Texas women rely on government-funded healthcare programs as their main provider of reproductive, preventive and family planning care; and

WHEREAS, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Family Planning program and the Women's Health Program are two significant programs that provide healthcare services for low-income Texas women; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 Texas Legislature cut funding for the DSHS Family Planning programs budget by two-thirds, reducing it by over \$72 million; and

WHEREAS, the DSHS Family Planning budget cuts resulted in the closing of over 50 women's healthcare clinics, cutting off preventive care, including well-woman examinations, breast and cervical cancer screenings, and contraception for approximately 147,000 low-income women; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the clinic closures, the Women's Health Program (WHP), which serves an additional 130,000 low-income women providing contraceptive services, screening for breast and cervical cancer, diabetes, hypertension and sexually transmitted infections, is at risk due to the state rule excluding specific providers including Planned Parenthood; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Planned Parenthood clinics provided care for more than 50,000 WHP clients, roughly half of the statewide total; and

WHEREAS, the exclusion of Planned Parenthood facilities participation in WHP has resulted in a significant reduction in healthcare and family planning for low-income women, and a substantial loss of federal funding for Texas; and

WHEREAS, births due to unplanned pregnancies cost nearly \$1.3 billion in Medicaid costs each year in Texas; and

WHEREAS, some estimates show that the 2011 budget cuts could lead to 24,000 additional births in 2014-15 at a cost to taxpayers of \$273 million; and

WHEREAS, increasing women's access to family planning and preventive healthcare helps ensure the well-being of low-income women and their babies and saves tax-payer money; and

SECTION 2: Women's Right to Know Act

WHEREAS, women seeking to terminate pregnancies in the state of Texas are provided with information required by the Women's Right to Know Act; and

WHEREAS, this information is dispersed by physicians via pamphlets that are updated annually by the Texas Department of State Health Services through a public process; and

WHEREAS, these pamphlets presently contain biased and leading information not consistent with current and relevant science, including, but not limited to the statement that women face an “increased risk of developing breast cancer after an induced abortion...”; and

WHEREAS, the Department of State Health Services sought public input until March 15 and will finalize changes to these pamphlets in June, after incorporating actions from the 83rd Legislature; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the Austin City Council supports and endorses the State of Texas restoring full state funding of Women’s Preventive Health and Family Planning Services to their levels prior to the 2011 budget cuts,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That City Council supports and endorses that the Department of State Health Services include only unbiased, non-leading, scientifically founded information in the Women’s Right to Know pamphlets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City of Austin's Legislative Program for the 83rd Legislature is hereby amended to support legislation that restores funding of Women's Preventive Health and Family Planning Services.

ADOPTED: _____, 2013

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk