

RESOLUTION NO. 20190606-100

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2019, the governor of Alabama signed into law House Bill 314, which is considered the most restrictive abortion law in the country; and

WHEREAS, Alabama is one of a number of states, including Missouri, that have passed legislation this year to advance an organized effort to further erode abortion rights; and

WHEREAS, economic boycotts of businesses or entities in response to constitutional and human rights violations have been shown to produce measures of success in the U.S., most notably the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott, which helped launch the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Austin City Council adopted Resolution No. 20100513-030, which halted, with some exceptions, all business-related travel by city employees to Arizona in response to the state's inhumane law regarding immigration; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Council adopted the "Abortion is Healthcare" resolution (Resolution No. 20170126-045), affirming that a woman's right to make the decision to access safe, legal, and affordable abortion is an essential component to healthcare; and

WHEREAS, abortion bans have historically had a disproportionate impact on low-income populations, particularly people of color and LGBTQ individuals; and

WHEREAS, it's uncertain what impact a City of Austin boycott relating to staff business travel would have on the State of Alabama, which, according to the U.S. Census Bureau is one of the top ten poorest states in the nation; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to assess what the impacts would be and who would be adversely affected should Austin pass legislation to halt staff business travel to Alabama.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to explore other ways to boycott Alabama without adversely affecting service industry employees or low-income individuals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to identify options for proceeding with boycotting, or encouraging individuals to boycott, companies that rank among the top political donors to the Alabama governor and legislators who voted for the anti-abortion bill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

In this assessment of the potential impacts of boycotting staff business travel to Alabama or of boycotting companies that rank among the top political donors to the Alabama governor or the legislators who voted for the anti-abortion bill, the City Manager is directed to consider the pros and cons of using either type of boycott as

a tool as compared to other meaningful and affirmative actions and tools the City Council may use in support of reproductive healthcare.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to explore any other meaningful and affirmative actions Austin can take to fight against anti-abortion legislation, or to help those affected by these bills in Texas and other states.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to consult women's reproductive healthcare stakeholders both locally, in Texas, and in Alabama, and other states where women's reproductive healthcare is being limited or challenged as part of each assessment requested in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to report back to Council with the requested information and recommendations by August 28, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

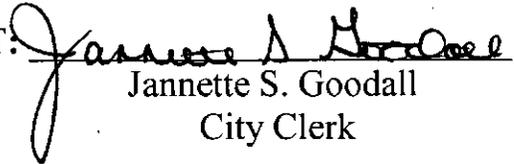
The City Council strongly opposes this year's string of anti-abortion bills that have passed or are pending in the states of Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Arkansas, Utah, and Texas, in addition to Alabama, the first state to pass an outright ban on abortion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council strongly supports the Women's Health Protection Act pending in Congress.

ADOPTED: June 6, 2019

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk