



## RECOMMENDATION FOR SUPPORT FOR ABORTION ACCESS

### Commission for Women

Recommendation Number 20190814-03a03: The Commission for Women recommends funding for abortion access and abortion-related services and care.

WHEREAS, the Commission for Women (“Commission”) of the City of Austin (“City”) serves as an advisory body to the City Council (“Council”) and city manager concerning the needs and problems of women in the Austin area and shall recommend programs designed to alleviate any inequities that may confront women in social, economic and vocational pursuits. The Commission shall develop goals and coordinate research for planning, programming, and action relating to opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in the city; and

WHEREAS, on August 14, 2019, the Lilith Fund for Reproductive Equity and NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation presented to the Commission for Women a proposal to support abortion access in Austin (“Proposal”); and,

WHEREAS, per the Proposal, direct funding for abortion care, as recently established in New York City, is prohibited in Texas, and patients seeking abortions must overcome tremendous logistical and financial barriers to accessing care;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Commission for Women recommends \$150,000 funding for Austin-based direct services organizations per the Proposal, as follows:

- Logistical support
  - Transportation to and from abortion clinics
  - Hotel accommodations for overnight stays necessary for abortion procedures
  - Childcare support or reimbursements
- Accommodations for lost wages
  - Direct financial assistance to patients who forgo wages (or who are denied paid sick days) to obtain abortion care
- Post-abortion support
  - Overhead and administrative costs for organizations whose staff provide post-abortion doula, counseling, and/or emotional support services

Date of Approval: August 14, 2019

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 7-0 vote, four commissioners absent

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

Vicky Nguyen, Staff Liaison