

RESOLUTION NO. 20200326-051

WHEREAS, abortion providers are an essential and valued part of Austin's health care community and provide quality, compassionate, and necessary health care to both community members and those who travel here for care; and

WHEREAS, the decision about if and when to become a parent is one of the most important life decisions a person can make, and when someone decides to have an abortion, it should be safe, affordable, and free from punishment or judgment; and

WHEREAS, abortion providers must be accessible to all individuals who can become pregnant to make real decisions about their bodies, lives, and futures; and

WHEREAS, abortion providers support patients' decisions by treating them with dignity, compassion, and respect; and

WHEREAS, abortion is one of the safest medical procedures in the United States, and experts at the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine published a study in 2018 (Study) confirming that scientific evidence consistently indicates that legal abortions in the U.S., including those performed by advanced practice clinicians and those performed in the second trimester, are extremely safe; and

WHEREAS, the Study also reinforced the well-documented reality that recent restrictions in some states have forced many abortion clinics to shut down, and as a result, ninety percent of counties in the United States today do not have an abortion provider; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, City Council included funding in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 City budget to help cover the practical costs of abortion access logistical support services,

such as transportation, lodging, and case management, due to the many restrictions passed in Texas; and

WHEREAS, the City declared that Abortion is Healthcare in 2017 (Resolution No. 20170126-045) and provided support for public funding for abortion through Rosie's Resolution in 2018 (Resolution No. 20181004-035); and

WHEREAS, Abortion Care Network found that the number of independent abortion clinics in the United States has declined by a third since 2012, and the recent rule changes of Title X of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300, et seq.) has further threatened access to abortion referrals and abortion care; and

WHEREAS, this shortage of abortion clinics creates long wait lists for appointments, forces some patients to travel hundreds of miles to get care, increases the out-of-pocket costs and logistical burdens experienced by patients wanting to receive care, and exposes remaining clinics to increased levels of harassment and politically-motivated restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the National Abortion Federation's 2018 statistics on violence and disruption found an alarming escalation in incidences of obstruction, vandalism, and trespassing at abortion clinics; and

WHEREAS, abortion providers courageously provide care in the face of restrictions, political interference, and threats to their personal safety; and

WHEREAS, the current federal administration's hostile stance on abortion reproductive health, and sexual rights has emboldened many states to consider further

restrictive policies, including bans on abortion or trigger laws which would ban abortion outright if *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (U.S. 1973) is overturned; and

WHEREAS, in recent months, at the behest of anti-abortion activists, several Texas municipalities have passed ordinances that claim to ban abortion, despite the fact that the right to access abortion remains protected by the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States now contains a majority of Justices who may not interpret the Constitution to provide protection for the right to end a pregnancy and may overturn or severely limit *Roe v. Wade*, which includes the threat of patients and abortion providers being arrested and sent to jail; and

WHEREAS, the currently presiding Justices may not respect the rule of law and the Supreme Court's precedent, and may uphold a Louisiana law (Section A(2)(a) of Act Number 620) identical to a Texas law (H.B. 2 , 83rd Texas Legislature) that was found unconstitutional in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* (136 S.Ct. 2292 (U.S. 2016)); and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 1993, abortion provider Dr. David Gunn was shot and killed by an anti-abortion extremist; and

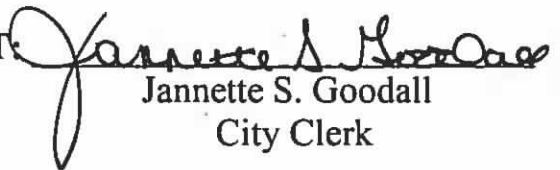
WHEREAS, to honor his memory, March 10th of every year has since been established as a day to show appreciation for and to celebrate the courage and compassion of abortion providers and the high-quality care they provide; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

Council hereby proclaims March 10, 2020 as Abortion Providers' Appreciation Day to honor Dr. Gunn's memory and to celebrate the courage and compassion of abortion providers and the high-quality care they provide, especially Austin Women's Health Center, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas, and Whole Woman's Health of Austin.

ADOPTED: March 26, 2020

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk