

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

May 21, 2019

**ABORTION IS HEALTHCARE**

On May 15, 2019, Governor Kay Ivey of Alabama signed into law HB 314, which was passed by both houses of the Alabama Legislature. Pursuant to HB 314, individuals in Alabama would be prohibited from seeking abortion in nearly all circumstances. The law makes no exceptions for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest, and it institutes criminal prosecution for doctors who violate the law. In fact, under HB 314, a physician who performs an abortion for a rape survivor would face a longer prison sentence than the rapist themselves in some instances. Alabama’s proposal is the most restrictive abortion law in the country, and it joins the ranks of other states calling into question the constitutional right to reproductive healthcare.

Although Alabama’s HB 314 is the most extreme, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Ohio have approved prohibitions on abortions after six weeks of pregnancy. Arkansas and Utah have voted to limit the constitutional right to the middle of the second trimester. Missouri is expected to pass a sweeping prohibition as well. These dangerous and unconstitutional laws attempt to cast doubt upon almost 45 years of United States Supreme Court precedent, beginning with the Court’s landmark decision *Roe v. Wade*.

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MOTION

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Imposition of the laws may hinge on legal changes, but the repercussions are being felt across the country in the perpetual fight for the right to equitable reproductive health. People are taking a stand nationwide – for example, people are donating to the *Yellowhammer Fund* in Alabama and using social media as a platform to demonstrate why abortion is a human right. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a lawsuit against Ohio’s ban on abortion. Alabama Women’s Center and the ACLU have similar lawsuits against Alabama, and other challenges are anticipated.

The enclave of new laws seeks to erode access to legal and safe abortion. Without question, this is a medieval attempt to control and limit the ability of individuals to make personal decisions about their health. It treats more than half of the population as second class. Los Angeles County continues to lead in ensuring access to reproductive health, and that leadership must extend across state lines to maintain and enhance the constitutional right to safe and legal abortions. This right should not be determined by a person’s zip code, income level, or any other factor.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DIRECT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE (CEO) TO:**

1. Implement a one-year travel restriction to the State of Alabama for the conduct of official Los Angeles County business, except travel related to: emergency response, emergency training, and emergency assistance, matters related to the Department of Children and Family Services, Probation, District Attorney, Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, and other legally required matters where the failure to authorize such travel would seriously harm the County’s interests as specifically authorized by the Chief Executive Office;
2. Deliver a 5-signature letter to the Governor and Legislature of Alabama communicating the County’s travel restriction, its opposition to HB 314,

and calling for its immediate repeal; and

3. Deliver a 5-signature letter to the Governors and Legislatures of Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, and Utah communicating Los Angeles County's opposition to their respective legislation, which restricts, or seeks to restrict, access to abortion, and calling for the immediate repeal of the legislation.

**I FURTHER MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DIRECT CEO AND COUNTY COUNSEL TO:**

1. Monitor legislative and judicial actions regarding abortion restrictions, and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors about legal opportunities to participate as amicus or plaintiff in the various lawsuits challenging the imposition of HB 314 and other similar laws that seek to prohibit and/or limit the constitutional right to abortion.

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