

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HOLLY J. MITCHELL
AND SHEILA KUEHL**

January 25, 2022

Preserving Reproductive Health Access on the Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

January 20, 2022 will mark the 49th anniversary of Roe v. Wade (Roe), the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that determined the U.S. Constitution provides a right to privacy, protecting a woman’s right to choose whether or not to have an abortion. The current U.S. Supreme Court will soon decide two new cases, Dobbs vs. Jackson Women’s Health Clinic and Whole Woman’s Health vs. Jackson which both seek to overturn Roe. If Roe is overturned, states would have the authority to either ban abortions or impose restrictions that would restrict abortion access. Governor Gavin Newsom and California legislators have declared their intent that California be open to out-of-state women seeking access to abortion and are considering various proposals including subsidies for out-of-state women.

Preserving women’s access to quality reproductive health care services is critical. On January 5, 2022, at the Los Angeles County (County) Health and Mental Health Services Cluster meeting, a panel including representatives from County Counsel, the Department of Health Services, the Department of Public Health and reproductive health care advocates discussed the potential impact of the pending Supreme Court decisions and the State’s response. The panel discussed how the influx of women from other

- MORE -

MOTION

SOLIS	_____
KUEHL	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
MITCHELL	_____

states to California could impact the County by leading to increased demand for contraceptives and abortion services at public and private hospitals and clinics; delayed access to care and increased medical complications and morbidity. The influx could also affect the County budget for health and social services and potentially alter County programs that aim to eliminate health care disparities among women of color and poor women, including programs that address sexually transmitted diseases. These are important considerations that will have a lasting impact on women residing in our County, especially low-income women who have no options and must depend on the County for access to reproductive health care.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer, the Directors of the Department of Health Services and Department of Public Health, and County Counsel, in coordination with Planned Parenthood and other reproductive health care advocates to meet and develop written recommendations on how Los Angeles County could respond should Roe v. Wade be overturned.
 - a. These recommendations should include an analysis of a) any potential County budget impact of State proposals to relax residency requirements to ensure everyone has access to reproductive health care, including abortion services and related social services; b) opportunities to enhance medical training, especially training on how to respond to emergent medical complications related to septic non-hospital abortions; c) opportunities to expand the reproductive healthcare workforce, including efforts to ensure providers are working at the top of their license; d) opportunities to create uniform referral systems to optimize access to reproductive health services; and e) opportunities to reduce and address health disparities by expanding reproductive and sexual health services, supplies and education, for marginalized communities and those who might be harder to reach. These communities would include women who are unhoused,

incarcerated and those with substance use disorders or serious mental health concerns.

- b. These written recommendations should be developed within 30 days.

#

(YV)