



TOWN OF JEROME

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RESOLUTION NO. 642

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF JEROME, ARIZONA, RELATING TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE; DECLARING MAYOR AND COUNCIL'S OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT'S OVERTURNING OF *ROE V. WADE*; DENOUNCING SENATE BILL 1164 AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF ARIZONA LAW CRIMINALIZING ABORTION; AND SUPPORTING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF PREGNANT PERSONS INCLUDING THEIR ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE AND ABORTIONS

WHEREAS, access to health care promotes the general welfare of Jerome residents; and

WHEREAS, access to reproductive health care is critical to women's physical, psychological, and socioeconomic well-being; and

WHEREAS, abortion is a safe medical intervention that roughly one in four women have had in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, the right to decide to have an abortion before viability has been United States Supreme Court precedent for nearly 50 years; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has overturned *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), which guaranteed women the constitutional right to abortion as recognized in and reaffirmed in *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992); and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Legislature adopted, and Governor Ducey signed, Senate Bill (S.B.) 1164, which amends Arizona's abortion statutes to add a new article banning abortions after 15 weeks of gestation except in narrowly defined medical emergencies, and also providing that physicians who violate the ban are guilty of a criminal offense and subject to civil penalties; and

WHEREAS, S.B. 1164 follows a history of state laws aimed at limiting or denying access to abortion care, including an even more restrictive law, A.R.S. § 13-3603, that imposes a total ban on abortions and subjects providers to up to five years of imprisonment for performing abortions; and

WHEREAS, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and other prominent medical organizations have determined that abortion bans will harm, rather than improve, patient health; and

WHEREAS, the narrow medical emergency exception in S.B. 1164, like the Mississippi ban, does not adequately protect patients in instances of serious medical conditions that may not qualify as "medical emergencies;" and

WHEREAS, abortion bans disproportionately target minority and lower-income patients, with up to 75% of those seeking abortion care living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, and the majority identifying as Black, Hispanic, Asian, or Pacific Islander; and

WHEREAS, forcing patients to continue pregnancy subjects them to complications and a risk of death that is 14 times higher than abortion; and

WHEREAS, research shows that women denied a wanted abortion are less financially secure

[Jerome Town Hall Located at 600 Clark Street, Jerome Civic Center](#)

in subsequent years than those who received an abortion and being denied an abortion increases the chances that a woman's existing children live in poverty.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF JEROME, ARIZONA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Mayor and Council support the rights of pregnant persons in the Town to obtain access to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare, including abortion care.

SECTION 2. The Mayor and Council oppose the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

SECTION 3. The Mayor and Council denounce and oppose the implementation of S.B. 1164 and other Arizona laws that prohibit and criminalize abortions, including A.R.S. §§ 13-3603 through -3605 and A.R.S. § 36-2159, which will harm the autonomy and well-being of pregnant persons.

SECTION 4. The Mayor and Council support Jerome Police Chief Allen Muma in his establishing law enforcement priorities that consider the need to protect the physical, psychological and socioeconomic well-being of pregnant people and their care providers.

SECTION 5. The Town Clerk is instructed to provide copies of this Resolution to the Jerome Police Department and the Yavapai County Attorney's Office.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by a majority vote of the Jerome Town Council on the 12th day of July, 2022.

APPROVED:



Dr. Jack Dillenberg, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



William J. Sims, Town Attorney

ATTEST:



Brett Klein, Town Manager/Clerk