



Item 9

Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: January 22nd 2013

Prepared By/Phone Number: Peter Einhorn

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Sarah Eckhardt, Precinct Two

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROE VS. WADE DECISION BY THE U.S. SUPREME COURT AND SUPPORTING COMPREHENSIVE WOMENS HEALTH SERVICES.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

See attached resolution language

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

N/A

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

None

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to the County Judge's office, Agenda@co.travis.tx.us by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.

A Resolution to Support Women's Reproductive Rights

WHEREAS, the American People believe that women should be able to consult with their doctor, family, and faith about personal, private medical decisions; and

WHEREAS, state politicians enacted twice as many anti-choice laws in 2011 as they did in the previous year, including laws that force women who choose abortion care to undergo an invasive forced ultrasound procedure against their will and even if not recommended by their chosen health care professional; and

WHEREAS, eight states since 2010 have enacted laws that ban abortion at 20 weeks, regardless of the woman's situation, without exceptions to protect her health, and in violation of the right to privacy guaranteed under *Roe v. Wade*; and

WHEREAS, reproductive-health care and the overwhelming majority of services provided by Planned Parenthood health centers is basic health care for women, including cancer screenings and breast exams; and

WHEREAS, because of their decision to provide safe, legal services to terminate pregnancy, a service which represent 3% of total services they provided in 2011, Planned Parenthood has been targeted by Texas and other states and denied funding for any of the services they provide; and

WHEREAS, for many women with limited incomes, Planned Parenthood clinics are their point of entry into the health care system and their ongoing source of primary care services; and

WHEREAS, if these services disappear, more women are likely to contract diseases that will imperil their lives and lead to expensive Medicaid and Medicare bills borne by taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, these programs are essential to reducing rates of unintended pregnancy and preventing the increase of the number of women with cervical and breast cancers who are not diagnosed until the cancers are in the late stages; and

WHEREAS, January 22nd 2013 is the 40th Anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court Decision in the case of *Roe vs. Wade*, which affirmed the right of women to seek abortions legally in accordance with their own beliefs and under the care of health care professionals.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Travis County Commissioners Court affirms the importance of full spectrum women's reproductive rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commissioners Court urges Congress and the State of Texas to pursue a positive agenda that reaffirms the fundamental right of women to make decisions about their health in concert with their doctor and improves women's access to safe and comprehensive reproductive-health care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on Congress and the Texas State Legislature to restore funding to Planned Parenthood and other health care providers that are currently penalized for providing safe, legal abortion services.

ADOPTED THIS THE 22ND DAY OF JANUARY OF 2013.

Samuel T. Biscoe, Travis County Judge

Ron Davis
Commissioner Precinct 1

Sarah Eckhardt
Commissioner Precinct 2

Gerald Daugherty
Commissioner Precinct 3

Margaret Gómez
Commissioner Precinct 4