

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-17

VILLAGE OF COTTAGE GROVE

Resolution To Protect Reproductive Justice in the Village of Cottage Grove

WHEREAS, access to health care promotes the general welfare of Village of Cottage Grove residents; and

WHEREAS, access to reproductive health care is critical to women's physical, psychological, and socioeconomic well-being; 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 majority opinion in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization has overturned the constitutional right to abortion as recognized in Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), and reaffirmed in Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey, 505 U.S. 833 (1992), and Wis. Stat. § 940.04 and other laws are now enforceable which has prompted the Center for Reproductive Rights to designate Wisconsin "hostile" to abortion care; and

WHEREAS, abortions are very common, with 1 in 4 women in the United States having an abortion by the time they are 45 years old; and

WHEREAS, banning abortions doesn't reduce abortions, but it does lead to worse public health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. is the worst country for maternal mortality among wealthy countries; and

WHEREAS, there is a continued need for surgical intervention to save the life of women experiencing ectopic pregnancy, or in the case of retained or incomplete miscarriage or placental retention after childbirth, and any other situations as deemed necessary by a licensed health care provider; and

WHEREAS, Black women in the U.S. are three times as likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women and forcing birth will only further exacerbate these inequities in our community; and

WHEREAS, before abortion was legalized in the 1970s, unsafe abortions caused at least 1 in every 6 pregnancy-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, abortions have been decreasing in the U.S. for decades, likely due to access to contraception and greater sex education access; and

WHEREAS, forced birth negatively impacts the physical, mental, emotional, social, and economic health of women, parents, and families; and

WHEREAS, free and easily accessible long-term contraception and comprehensive sex education in schools are two policy solutions that reduce unintended pregnancies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Cottage Grove Board of Trustees agree all people have the ability to make medical decisions about their own body; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village of Cottage Grove Board of Trustees supports the rights of pregnant persons in the Village to obtain access to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare, including abortion care; and therefore oppose the Supreme Court of the United States opinion in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village of Cottage Grove Board of Trustees denounce and oppose the implementation of Wis. Stat. § 940.04 and other Wisconsin laws that prohibit and criminalize abortions, including Wis. Stat. § 940.15, which prohibits non-physicians from performing abortions, even though other medical professionals, such as nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and physician assistants can and do provide safe abortions in other states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village of Cottage Grove Board of Trustees is supportive of robust sexual and reproductive health services and an advocacy and education strategy on reproductive justice for the Cottage Grove Community; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Village of Cottage Grove Board of Trustees will work to ensure access and availability of reproductive health services for Cottage Grove residents.

Dated this ___ day of July, 2022.

Village President, John Williams

Village Clerk, Lisa Kalata