

RESOLUTION R-5550

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND AFFIRMING ITS SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE, INCLUDING ABORTION; AND ITS SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY; AND ITS SUPPORT OF PROTECTIONS THROUGH WASHINGTON STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION.

1 WHEREAS, in 1970, Washington State voters approved
2 Referendum 20, which legalized abortion in Washington State;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, on January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court
6 ruled in Roe v. Wade that unduly restrictive state regulation of
7 abortion is unconstitutional. The Court held that a set of Texas
8 statutes criminalizing abortion in most instances violated a
9 woman's constitutional right of privacy, which it found to be
10 implicit in the liberty guarantee of the Due Process Clause of the
11 Fourteenth Amendment, "...nor shall any state deprive any person
12 of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law"; and
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14 WHEREAS, in 1991, Washington State voter approved
15 Initiative I-120, which declared a woman's right to choose
16 physician-performed abortion prior to fetal viability and further
17 expanded and protected access to reproductive healthcare in
18 Washington State in the event Roe v. Wade were to be
19 overturned; and
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21 WHEREAS, on June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled
22 in Obergefell v. Hodges that the fundamental right to marry is
23 guaranteed to same-sex couples by both the Due Process Clause
24 and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to
25 the United States Constitution; and
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27 WHEREAS, comprehensive abortion care is included in the
28 list of essential health care services published by the World Health
29 Organization in 2020; and according to the World Health
30 Organization, "[l]ack of access to safe, affordable, timely and
31 respectful abortion healthcare, and the stigma associated with
32 abortion, pose risks to women's physical and mental well-being
33 throughout the life-course. Inaccessibility of quality abortion
34 healthcare risks violating a range of human rights of women and
35 girls, including the right to life; the right to the highest attainable
36 standard of physical and mental health; the right to benefit from

37 scientific progress and its realization; the right to decide freely and
38 responsibly on the number, spacing and timing of children; and
39 the right to be free from torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading
40 treatment and punishment”; and

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42 WHEREAS, on June 9, 2022, Washington Engrossed House
43 Bill 1851 went into effect, which states: “Although the abortion
44 rights movement has historically centered on women in our
45 advocacy, that must no longer be the case; and it is critical that
46 we recognize that transgender, nonbinary, and gender expansive
47 people also require abortion healthcare. Washington’s law should
48 reflect the most inclusive understanding of who needs
49 reproductive healthcare and be updated with gender neutral
50 language”; and

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52 WHEREAS, on June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the
53 United States struck down Roe v. Wade, holding that the Due
54 Process Clause and Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth
55 Amendment do not apply to an individual’s right to safe and legal
56 abortions; and

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58 WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court’s current interpretation
59 of the 14th Amendment is also a threat to marriage equality; and

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61 WHEREAS, Governor Jay Inslee has stated he continued to
62 support an amendment to protect an individual’s right to safe and
63 legal abortion in the Washington State Constitution; and

64
65 WHEREAS, on February 21, 2017, the City Council adopted
66 Resolution R-5240, declaring Kirkland a Safe, Inclusive, and
67 Welcoming Community for all people; and

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69 WHEREAS, on August 4, 2020, the City Council adopted
70 Resolution R-5434, helping ensure the safety and respect of Black
71 people, committing to examining and dismantling interpersonal,
72 institutional, and structural racism in Kirkland; and

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74 WHEREAS, the City Council believes this new U.S. Supreme
75 Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade disproportionately
76 impacts people of color, people with disabilities, and those with
77 low incomes, among others; and

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79 WHEREAS, the City has consistently demonstrated its
80 values in support of comprehensive reproductive healthcare by
81 providing such coverage, including abortion healthcare, in each of
82 the current health insurance plans for City employees; and

83 WHEREAS, the City values and supports LGBTQIA+
84 community members and employees, and has demonstrated this
85 through such actions as proclaiming June as Pride Month in
86 Kirkland each year since 2019, and through covering gender-
87 affirming healthcare in each of the health insurance plans for City
88 employees; and

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90 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the
91 City of Kirkland as follows:

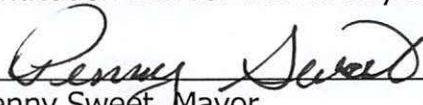
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93 Section 1. The Kirkland City Council affirms its support of
94 an individual’s right to comprehensive, safe, and accessible
95 reproductive healthcare, including abortion, and its support of
96 marriage equality.

97
98 Section 2. The Kirkland City Council expresses its support
99 of amendments to the Washington State and United States
100 Constitutions to codify an individual’s right to comprehensive,
101 safe, and accessible reproductive healthcare, including abortion,
102 and marriage equality.

103
104 Section 3. The Kirkland City Council supports Washington
105 State legislative actions that protect an individual’s right to
106 reproductive healthcare and abortion; including legislation which
107 protects visitors to Washington State seeking abortion healthcare
108 and protections for Washington State healthcare providers in
109 providing abortion healthcare.


110
111 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open
112 meeting this 19 day of July, 2022.

113
114 Signed in authentication thereof this 19 day of July, 2022.



Penny Sweet, Mayor

Attest:



Kathi Anderson, City Clerk