

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2022 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-083-2022

Proposed by Council Members Dernoga, Hawkins, Franklin, Glaros, Ivey, Burroughs, Harrison

Introduced by Council Members Dernoga, Hawkins, Franklin, Glaros, Ivey, Burroughs,
Harrison, Medlock, Turner and Taveras

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction July 5, 2022

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION concerning

The condemnation of the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, overturning the 1973 landmark case of Roe v. Wade.

For the purpose of expressing the Prince George's County Council's condemnation of the decision of the United States Supreme Court to overturn its decision in Roe v. Wade, removing the Constitutional protection of women's right to obtain safe and legal abortions in the United States.

WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Council condemns the United States Supreme Court's June 2022 ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization overturning Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973).

WHEREAS, the decision in Roe v. Wade is federal precedent upheld over a 50 year period following the 1973 ruling to protect women's rights to an abortion with Justice Blackmun, Justice Burger, Justice Douglas, Justice Brennan, Justice Stewart, Justice Marshall, and Justice Powell in the majority.

WHEREAS, the sitting Supreme Court Justices are Chief Justice John Roberts, Justice Breyer, Justice Thompson, Justice Coney Barrett, Justice Sotomayor, Justice Kagan, Justice Gorsuch, Justice Alito, Justice Kavanaugh; and

WHEREAS, five of the nine sitting Justices have been appointed by Presidents who lost the popular vote; and

WHEREAS, the decision by the United States Supreme Court represents an assault on the civil liberties of women and birthing persons; and

WHEREAS, we respect the opinion of those who advocated for the overturn of Roe v Wade, we must recognize the right of women in cases of rape, molestation, and the life of the mother, we cannot relegate the lives of women to unsafe procedures as in our past; and

WHEREAS, it is our duty to educate and provide preventive strategies so that extremes are avoided, and abortion should be rare but safe; and

WHEREAS, Thirty-four percent of families led by single mothers nationwide live in poverty. Comparatively, only 6% of families with married parents live in poverty, according to data from 2018 compiled by Joseph Chamie, a former director of the United Nations Population Division; and

WHEREAS, the ideals of a civil and democratic society are meant to afford freedoms to all, not the select few; and

WHEREAS, as the autonomy of any person is revoked, that person becomes unequal under the law; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court upheld reproductive autonomy and privacy for men in 1942; and

WHEREAS, abortion is a cornerstone medical procedure for women and removing this right will only push abortions from safe medical procedures to unsafe back alley clinics, putting all women at risk, but disproportionately impacting Black women, Brown women, and poor women; and

WHEREAS, in Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt, 579 U.S. 582 (2016), Justice Breyer stated that childbirth is 14 times more likely than abortion to result in death nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Black women are three times as likely to die by carrying a pregnancy to term as white women; and

WHEREAS, the United States is the most dangerous industrialized Country in which to give birth; and

WHEREAS, unsafe septic abortions were the primary killer of black women in the 1960s.

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland expanded access to abortion care by establishing the Abortion Care Clinical Training Program to ensure sufficient number of health professionals to provide abortion care in Maryland.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that the Prince George's County Council condemns the ruling of the United

States Supreme Court in the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince George’s County Council supports the right of women in the United States to bodily autonomy and opposes any effort to deprive women of the right to reproductive freedom; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince George’s County Council urges local, state, and federal policymakers nationwide to act to safeguard the reproductive rights of all women and implement reforms to address oppressive policies

Adopted this 5th day of July, 2022.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council