

Yolanda Ho
City Council
May 10, 2022
D1a

Amendment 1 Version 1 to RES 32054 - LEG Abortion Rights RES

Sponsor: Councilmember Herbold

Clarifying intent

Effect: This amendment would clarify language in the recitals and add an additional recital related to House Bill 1851 (passed in 2022) related to protection of access to abortion care. It would also specify that the Council intends to appropriate funding for organizations that deliver programs and services in support of abortion care and access.

1. Amend the recitals of RES 32054 as follows:

WHEREAS, on May 3, 2022, thousands gathered in cities across the United States, including in Seattle, to protest a leaked draft decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which would overturn the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision that has protected the freedom to seek an abortion since 1973; and

WHEREAS, laws restricting access to abortion disproportionately impact poor and working-class ((~~women~~) people) and ((~~women~~) people) of color, because ((~~wealthy~~) wealthier (~~women~~) people) have the resources to pay a private doctor exorbitant fees or travel to where quality reproductive healthcare is available; and

WHEREAS, historian Ruth Rosen explained in *The World Split Open: How the Modern Women's Movement Changed America* that “Advocates of abortion reform estimated that close to one million women had illegal abortions annually before the procedure became legal in 1973, and they attributed some five thousand deaths directly to illegal abortions,” showing that throughout history, laws banning abortion do not stop them from happening ((~~, instead making them humiliating, unsafe, and even fatal~~)); and

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WHEREAS, patients in Washington state are hampered from accessing the full range of reproductive healthcare due to hospital consolidation, leading to almost 50 percent of Washington's hospital beds being in Catholic or otherwise religiously-affiliated facilities where reproductive healthcare is limited (~~((and limitations are not required to be disclosed to patients))~~; and

WHEREAS, by passing SB 5602 in 2019, Washington became the only state in the nation to require hospitals to publicly disclose their reproductive healthcare policies on their websites and submit publicly available forms regarding ~~((access to))~~ the reproductive healthcare ~~((available by posting such information on their websites))~~ services available at their facilities; and

WHEREAS, HB 1851, passed in 2022, protected Washingtonians from criminalization for their reproductive healthcare decisions and pregnancy outcomes, confirmed that all qualified licensed providers in Washington can offer abortion care to their patients, and ensured that Washington law protects all Washingtonians' right to abortion care, regardless of gender or gender identity; and

WHEREAS, nonetheless many patients remain unaware that their healthcare provider will not provide them with the full range of healthcare options they may require, especially those in crisis requiring emergent care, and those traveling across state lines who may be unfamiliar with local health systems; and

WHEREAS, health care entities' restrictions, including discriminatory restrictions ~~((based in religious doctrine,))~~ should not hinder patient access to reproductive care; and

WHEREAS, the ~~((ACLU of Washington is supporting the))~~ Keep Our Care Act ~~((,-which))~~ would prevent health entity consolidations from moving forward if they negatively

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impacted communities' access to affordable quality care, including reproductive, end-of-life, and gender affirming care; and

2. Amend Section 5 of RES 32054 as follows:

Section 5. The Seattle City Council intends to appropriate City funds in a 2022 supplemental budget to fund expanded access to reproductive healthcare. These funds would be allocated to organizations that deliver programs and services in support of abortion care and access, such as the Northwest Abortion Access Fund and independent abortion clinics.