

RESOLUTION 2022 -094

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WOMENS' REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN DISSENT OF THE U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION OVERTURNING ROE v. WADE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, 50 years ago the Supreme Court ruled in favor (7-2) of a woman's right to exercise control of her reproductive functions, declaring them to be guaranteed and protected by the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, in an unprecedented subversion of that landmark ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court on June 24, 2022, took away that Constitutional right, returning abortion protections, regulations, or bans to the individual states; and

WHEREAS, statistics demonstrate that banning abortions doesn't reduce abortions but rather leads to continued abortions with worse public health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, records show that 1 in 4 women report having an abortion in the United States, and unsafe abortions were responsible for 1 in every 6 pregnancy-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, in certain situations there is a need for intervention to terminate a pregnancy in order to save a woman's life, or to manage other medical conditions, as deemed necessary by a licensed health care provider; and

WHEREAS, laws restricting access to abortion disproportionately impact poor, working-class women, and women of color who often lack the resources to obtain necessary reproductive healthcare; and

WHEREAS, this recent decision by the Supreme Court is a contradiction of the values and beliefs for many in the City of Kent; and

WHEREAS, the Kent City Council adamantly stands behind the rights and freedoms of every individual and especially supports the rights of women to control the autonomy of their own bodies; and

WHEREAS, City Council further calls for the Ohio's state legislature to listen to the majority of our state's residents and repeal the ban on abortions after 6 weeks that is currently in effect, restoring access to abortion in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, City Council also encourages all residents to contact their local and state representatives and express their opinions on this reversal in Constitutional rights,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio:

SECTION 1. That Kent City Council does hereby rebuke the U.S. Supreme Court decision to overrule Roe v. Wade.

SECTION 2. That Kent City Council believes that all people should have the ability to make medical decisions about their own body and we support the rights of pregnant persons in Ohio to have equal access to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare, including abortions.

SECTION 3. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: August 17, 2022
Date

EFFECTIVE: August 17, 2022
Date

ATTEST: Amy Wilkens
Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council

Jerry T. Fiala
Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

I, AMY WILKENS, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *ORDINANCE NO. 2022-094*, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON August 17, 2022.

(SEAL)

Amy Wilkens
AMY WILKENS
CLERK OF COUNCIL