

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND THE RIGHTS OF PRIVACY OF ALL CITIZENS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, in June the U.S. Supreme Court will end its current term with the very likelihood of issuing a ruling that will reverse and take away a right of women to determine what happens to their own body; and

WHEREAS, for nearly a half century it has been the law of the land that women have the right to choose and determine their own destiny, especially when it comes to reproductive rights, including what happens to them if they are raped or victims of incest, or face the risk of death by complicated childbirth; and

WHEREAS, never in modern history has a right conveyed upon a lawful member of American society been revoked, and so unceremoniously; and

WHEREAS thousands of Fulton County residents will lose this valued right if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns the Roe v. Wade decision, decided by a 7-2 Court in 1973, with five Republican justices and two Democrat justices in the majority of that landmark decision, written by Justice Blackmun, a Republican appointed by Republican President Richard M. Nixon; and

WHEREAS, Fulton County is charged with the protection of the health and safety of all its citizens, including their mental health; and

WHEREAS, in 1969 the American Psychological Association identified termination of pregnancy as a mental health and child welfare issue and a legitimate concern; and

WHEREAS, resolving that such termination should be considered a civil right of the pregnant woman, to be handled as other medical and surgical procedures in consultation with her physician, and in particular to be considered legal if performed by a licensed medical professional in a licensed medical facility; and

WHEREAS, since that time, efforts to recriminalize abortion and to limit access to the full range of reproductive options to women; underscored and affirmed the preponderance of scientific data supporting the conclusion that freedom of choice and a woman's control over her critical life decisions promotes psychological health; and

WHEREAS, many states have enacted (so-called "trigger") laws that would immediately criminalize a woman, her doctor or even an aide for any participation in helping a woman decide what is right for her mind and body; and

WHEREAS, millions of women stand to be seriously injured in the loss of their privacy and their right of self-determination if the Court overturns Roe; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Senate failed to adopt a bill, titled the "Women's Health Protection Act," that would provide for and enshrine women's reproductive health rights nationwide and "protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services;" and

WHEREAS, Fulton County's own U.S. Representative Nikema Williams has introduced a Resolution in the House of Representatives that Congress condemn attempts to criminally prosecute people who perform abortions, have abortions or experience miscarriages; and

WHEREAS, a Pew Research Center survey in March found that 61 percent of Americans believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases and that only 37 percent say the opposite; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong belief that if the Court revokes this fundamental right that has been common law since 1973, and rooted in the sound legal ascertainment and belief that this right is tied to a common-law right of privacy, that other rights including same-sex marriage, interracial dating and interracial marriage, equal opportunity, and other such common-law rights tied to privacy, will be in the crosshairs of those who wish to eliminate such rights altogether.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County urges the passage of all laws that will enshrine a women's right to choose, a right of all Americans to enjoy the privacy of their homes, person, and consultations with their religious advisors, doctors and counselors; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the Board issues its strongest objection to any attempt to "turn back the clock" on human and civil rights, including rights of women, minorities, populations of color, those members of the LGBTQ community and more.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Board of Commissioner directs the Clerk to the Commission to spread this Resolution upon the official minutes and record of the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County, Georgia, and disseminate the Resolution appropriately throughout Fulton County and forthwith to Fulton County's representatives in state and federal government, including the Governor, the President, the Vice President and the leaders of Congress.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County, Georgia, this _____ day of May, 2022.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

SPONSORED BY:

Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner
District 6

CO-SPONSORED BY:

_____, Commissioner
District _____

_____, Commissioner
District _____

_____, Commissioner
District _____

District _____, Commissioner

District _____, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Tonya R. Grier, Clerk to the Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Y. Soo Jo, County Attorney