

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. 2017-025

Proclaiming Support for Access to Safe, Affordable, and Comprehensive Reproductive Health Care Services.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Access to safe, affordable, and comprehensive reproductive health care services is a basic human right, and is vital to the overall physical and mental health of women, transgender, and gender-nonconforming individuals who can become pregnant.
- b. Inequities in access to health care lead to inequitable outcomes for both parents and children. These inequities particularly impact low-income women, women of color, immigrant and undocumented women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals.
- c. Every individual should be able to access safe, affordable, and comprehensive reproductive health care services throughout their life. This should include screenings and treatment for cancer and sexually transmitted infections, contraceptive solutions, abortion care, prenatal care, labor and delivery services, breastfeeding support, postpartum care and menopausal care.
- d. Every person has a right to comprehensive, evidence-based information about the full range of reproductive health care options available to them, regardless of income, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, age, immigration status, criminal history, geographic circumstances, type of insurance, or insurance-coverage status.
- e. Comprehensive health insurance ensures that individuals can receive care from licensed, quality health-care providers, and means that economic barriers do not affect critical health decisions.
- f. The Hyde Amendment, enacted by Congress on September 30, 1976, has for more than 40 years denied abortion coverage to individuals who receive their health insurance through federal programs, including as federal employees, veterans, those covered by Indian Health Services, and low-income individuals enrolled in Medicaid.
- g. Oregon is one of just 15 states to fill the gap left by the federal Hyde Amendment by providing those enrolled in the state Medicaid plan with coverage for the full range of pregnancy-related services, including abortion. Ending Oregon's policy would cause 18,719 Multnomah County women enrolled in Medicaid to lose comprehensive health coverage.
- h. Oregon voters support proactive legislation that ensures access to the full range of reproductive health care, including safe, legal abortion. Seventy-five percent of Multnomah County voters supported this policy, regardless of immigration status, according to a 2016 poll.

- i. The Board of County Commissioners has previously resolved to support comprehensive reproductive health care for County employees, affirming the importance of reproductive self-determination (Resolution No. 00-091); and has also affirmed its support of the federal Affordable Care Act, resolving to support efforts to improve the health of all Americans (Resolution No. 2011-019; Proclamation No. 2017-007).

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

- 1. Access to a range of safe, affordable, and comprehensive reproductive health care options, regardless of income, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, age, immigration status, criminal history, geographic circumstances, type of insurance, and insurance coverage status, is crucial to the health of all residents in Multnomah County; and insurance coverage is a critical component of accessing health care.
- 2. Access to safe, affordable, and comprehensive reproductive health services is a right; therefore, it is incumbent upon local, state, and federal officials to support policies that reaffirm the right of all individuals to make decisions about their health care without governmental interference, and support comprehensive health coverage and funding for all reproductive health care services for women, transgender and gender nonconforming individuals who can become pregnant, regardless of income, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, age, immigration status, criminal history, geographic circumstances, type of insurance, and insurance-coverage status.

ADOPTED this 20th day of April, 2017.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



By _____
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioners Loretta Smith and Jessica Vega Pederson.