

Resolution



ORDER NO. 2022-0807

DATE: August 16, 2022

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

BE IT REMEMBERED at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 16th day of August 2022, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel of District 1, and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia of District 4, the following resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS, Dallas County honors the right of pregnant persons to bodily autonomy and control over their private medical decisions and the protection of the patient-doctor relationship; and

WHEREAS, access to safe and legal reproductive health care in various forms is a major factor in the long-term health, safety, and quality of life of pregnant people; and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2021, Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed into law HB 1280, which criminalizes certain reproductive health care options at the level of a first-degree felony, carrying a sentence of up to 99 years in prison, with no exceptions for rape and incest, which Act will take effect statewide 30 days after Roe v. Wade is overturned; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States has overturned the landmark ruling, Roe v. Wade, which previously prevented individual states from directly banning such care; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2022, President Joe Biden signed an executive order on protecting access to reproductive healthcare services; and

WHEREAS, in the 1973 Roe v. Wade majority opinion, Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun stated, "[The] right of privacy, whether it be founded in the Fourteenth Amendment's concept of personal liberty and restrictions upon state action, as we feel it is, or, as the District Court determined, in the Ninth Amendment's reservation of rights to the people, is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy"; and

WHEREAS, the right to privacy should protect doctors, patients, and all others involved in care from any criminal investigation, as long as those decisions occur without coercion, force, or negligence; and


WHEREAS, According to the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology, July 2022, the potential health risk and impact by eliminating legal access to certain reproductive health care options has been empirically proven to dramatically increase the risk of death, bodily injury, and infertility, while doing little to reduce the incidence of abortion. Using Parkland Hospital data, the study showed maternal morbidity occurred in 12 of the 28 patients (43%), and 9 of them required intensive care admission. The article leaves us with the question of "What does the threat of death have to be?" for privacy between patient and medical provider to be protected; and

WHEREAS, the County has a responsibility to protect its residents from any violation of their human rights and any prosecution for the free exercise thereof; and


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dallas County is committed to women's health care and is dedicated to protecting bodily autonomy as a basic human right. Dallas County must always be devoted to the health, safety, and wellbeing of all its residents, including pregnant persons who should have control over their private medical decisions and have their patient-doctor relationship protected.


DONE IN OPEN COURT this the 16th day of August, 2022.


Clay Lewis Jenkins
County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel
Commissioner, District 1


J.J. Koch
Commissioner, District 2


John Wiley Price
Commissioner, District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia
Commissioner, District 4