

## ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3C GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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## ANC3C Resolution 2022-CONSENT REGARDING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S ROLE AS A SAFE HAVEN FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

Whereas healthcare is a universal human right<sup>1</sup>; and

Whereas abortion is a common<sup>2</sup>, safe<sup>3</sup> form of healthcare<sup>4</sup>; and

Whereas abortion is legal and protected<sup>5</sup> in Washington, DC; and

Whereas intimidation and physical obstruction are common tools<sup>6</sup> used to deter individuals from accessing and providing abortion services; and

Whereas restrictions and bans on access to abortion services create financial, physical, and mental health risks to the people seeking them or who are denied needed procedures<sup>78</sup>; and

Whereas the US Supreme Court could eliminate constitutional protections for abortion in its pending decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*,<sup>9</sup> resulting in individual US states enacting further restrictions on abortion services; and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Article 25, United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, available at https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Bearak et. al, 2022. "Country-specific estimates of unintended pregnancy and abortion incidence: a global comparative analysis of levels in 2015–2019", accessed at https://gh.bmj.com/content/7/3/e007151

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Kapp et. al, 2012. "A review of evidence for safe abortion care", accessed at

https://www.contraceptionjournal.org/article/S0010-7824(12)00957-2/fulltext

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. "Facts are Important: Abortion is Healthcare", accessed at https://www.acog.org/advocacy/facts-are-important/abortion-is-healthcare

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> D.C. Law 23-90. Strengthening Reproductive Health Protections Amendment Act of 2020, accessed at https://code.dccouncil.us/us/dc/council/laws/23-90

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> National Abortion Federation, 2021. 2020 Violence and Disruption Statistics, accessed at https://prochoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2020\_NAF\_VD\_Stats.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Foster, Diana Greene, 2020. "The Turnaway Study: Ten Years, A Thousand Women, and the Consequences of Having – or Being Denied – an Abortion". New York, NW: Scribner.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Gerdts, et. al, 2016. "Side Effects, Physical Health Consequences, and Mortality Associated with Abortion and Birth after an Unwanted Pregnancy", accessed at https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1049386715001589

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Case docket available at https://www.supremecourt.gov/search.aspx?filename=/docket/docketfiles/html/public/19-1392.html

Whereas restricted access to abortion and other reproductive health services may lead to an increased number of individuals residing outside of the District of Columbia to seek abortions and related care outside their state of residence<sup>10</sup>; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that ANC 3C urges the Government of the District of Columbia guarantee access and affordability for reproductive health services in the District of Columbia to all who may seek it, through Bill 24-0726<sup>11</sup>, the "Enhancing Reproductive Health Protections Amendment Act of 2022", and/or similar measures; and

*Be it further resolved*, that ANC 3C urges all relevant offices within the Government of the District of Columbia—including but not limited to the Mayor, DC Council, Attorney General, and Department of Health—communicate or continue to communicate to the general public that reproductive health services are available within the District of Columbia regardless of one's place of residence or citizenship, legal status of citizenship, race, age, ethnicity, income, gender identity, or religious credence or lack thereof; and

*Be it further resolved*, that ANC 3C urges DC Council and the Mayor pass and sign into law legislation protecting self-management of abortions and medical practitioners' right to offer abortions and related reproductive health services; and

*Be it further resolved*, that ANC 3C urges DC Council and the Mayor pass and sign into law full Medicaid funding of abortion and other reproductive health services in the District of Columbia, notwithstanding the federal Dornan Amendment<sup>12</sup>, including for self-medicated abortions; and

*Be it further resolved*, that ANC 3C urges DC Government to provide financial and logistical support to community organizations willing and able to provide safe travel to and from reproductive health service provider premises for individuals attempting to attain reproductive health services; and

*Be it further resolved*, that ANC 3C urges DC Council and the Mayor pass legislation prohibiting state courts from enforcing the penalties of another state against any individual who obtained reproductive health services which are illegal in another state, in the spirit of House Bill 5414<sup>13</sup> which was recently introduced in Connecticut; and

*Be it further resolved*, that ANC 3C urges DC Council and the Mayor voice support for H.R. 3755<sup>14</sup>, the Women's Health Protection Act of 2021, in order to widely and permanently codify the right to provide and access abortion services throughout the United States of America.

*Be it resolved*, that the Commission authorizes the Chair and the Commissioner for 3C03 to represent the Commission on this matter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Smith et. al, 2022. "Abortion travel within the United States: An observational study of cross-state movement to obtain abortion care in 2017", accessed at https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanam/article/PIIS2667-193X(22)00031-X/fulltext <sup>11</sup> Bill text accessed at https://lims.dccouncil.us/downloads/LIMS/49181/Introduction/B24-0726-Introduction.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Dornan Amendment 286, H.R. 2713, 100th Congress, 1987. More information available at

https://www.congress.gov/amendment/100th-congress/house-amendment/286

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Bill text accessed at https://www.cga.ct.gov/2022/amd/H/pdf/2022HB-05414-R00HA-AMD.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Bill text accessed at https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3755

Attested by

Beau Finley

Beau Finley Chair, on May 16, 2022

This resolution was approved by voice vote on May 16, 2022, at a scheduled and noticed public meeting of ANC 3C at which a quorum (a minimum of 5 of 9 commissioners) was present.