

## RESOLUTION R-5550

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND IN SUPPORT OF CODIFYING COMPREHENSIVE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE, INCLUDING ABORTION, AND MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN THE WASHINGTON STATE AND UNITED STATES CONSTITUTIONS.

1 WHEREAS, in 1970, Washington State voters approved  
2 Referendum 20, which legalized abortion in Washington State;  
3 and  
4

5 WHEREAS, on January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court  
6 ruled in Roe v. Wade that unduly restrictive state regulation of  
7 abortion is unconstitutional. The Court held that a set of Texas  
8 statutes criminalizing abortion in most instances violated a  
9 woman's constitutional right of privacy, which it found to be  
10 implicit in the liberty guarantee of the Due Process Clause of the  
11 Fourteenth Amendment, "...nor shall any state deprive any person  
12 of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law"; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, in 1991, Washington State voter approved  
15 Initiative I-120, which declared a woman's right to choose  
16 physician-performed abortion prior to fetal viability and further  
17 expanded and protected access to reproductive healthcare in  
18 Washington State in the event Roe v. Wade were to be  
19 overturned; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, on June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled  
22 in Obergefell v. Hodges that the fundamental right to marry is  
23 guaranteed to same-sex couples by both the Due Process Clause  
24 and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to  
25 the United States Constitution; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, comprehensive abortion care is included in the  
28 list of essential health care services published by the World Health  
29 Organization in 2020; and according to the World Health  
30 Organization, "[l]ack of access to safe, affordable, timely and  
31 respectful abortion healthcare, and the stigma associated with  
32 abortion, pose risks to women's physical and mental well-being  
33 throughout the life-course. Inaccessibility of quality abortion  
34 healthcare risks violating a range of human rights of women and  
35 girls, including the right to life; the right to the highest attainable  
36 standard of physical and mental health; the right to benefit from

37 scientific progress and its realization; the right to decide freely and  
38 responsibly on the number, spacing and timing of children; and  
39 the right to be free from torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading  
40 treatment and punishment”; and

41  
42 WHEREAS, on June 9, 2022, Washington Engrossed House  
43 Bill 1851 went into effect, which states: “Although the abortion  
44 rights movement has historically centered on women in our  
45 advocacy, that must no longer be the case; and it is critical that  
46 we recognize that transgender, nonbinary, and gender expansive  
47 people also require abortion healthcare. Washington’s law should  
48 reflect the most inclusive understanding of who needs  
49 reproductive healthcare and be updated with gender neutral  
50 language”; and

51  
52 WHEREAS, on June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the  
53 United States struck down Roe v. Wade, holding that the Due  
54 Process Clause and Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth  
55 Amendment do not apply to an individual’s right to safe and legal  
56 abortions; and

57  
58 WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court’s current interpretation  
59 of the 14th Amendment is also a threat to marriage equality; and

60  
61 WHEREAS, Governor Jay Inslee has stated he continued to  
62 support an amendment to protect an individual’s right to safe and  
63 legal abortion in the Washington State Constitution; and

64  
65 WHEREAS, on February 21, 2017, the City Council adopted  
66 Resolution R-5240, declaring Kirkland a Safe, Inclusive, and  
67 Welcoming Community for all people; and

68  
69 WHEREAS, on August 4, 2020, the City Council adopted  
70 Resolution R-5434, helping ensure the safety and respect of Black  
71 people, committing to examining and dismantling interpersonal,  
72 institutional, and structural racism in Kirkland; and

73  
74 WHEREAS, the City Council believes this new U.S. Supreme  
75 Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade disproportionately  
76 impacts people of color, people with disabilities, and those with  
77 low incomes, among others; and

78  
79 WHEREAS, the City has consistently demonstrated its  
80 values in support of comprehensive reproductive healthcare by  
81 providing such coverage, including abortion healthcare, in each of  
82 the current health insurance plans for City employees; and

83 WHEREAS, the City values and supports LGBTQIA+  
 84 community members and employees, and has demonstrated this  
 85 through such actions as proclaiming June as Pride Month in  
 86 Kirkland each year since 2019, and through covering gender-  
 87 affirming healthcare in each of the health insurance plans for City  
 88 employees; and

89  
 90 WHEREAS, the City Council supports an individual's right to  
 91 reproductive healthcare, including abortion, and marriage  
 92 equality.

93  
 94 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the  
 95 City of Kirkland as follows:

96  
 97 Section 1. The Kirkland City Council adopts this resolution  
 98 to express its official position in support of amendments to the  
 99 Washington State and United States Constitutions to codify an  
 100 individual's right to comprehensive, safe, and accessible  
 101 reproductive healthcare, including abortion, and marriage  
 102 equality.

103  
 104 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open  
 105 meeting this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

106  
 107 Signed in authentication thereof this \_\_\_\_ day of  
 108 \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Penny Sweet, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Kathi Anderson, City Clerk