

RESOLUTION NO. 210406

**City of Gainesville Resolution
in Support of Advancing Reproductive Freedom**

WHEREAS, the country is currently facing two ongoing crises, the COVID-19 pandemic and systemic racism and its legacy, that disproportionately impact people of color, especially Black people, making it more important than ever that all leaders affirm their commitment to the ability of all people to control their lives, their bodies, and their futures; and,

WHEREAS, the right of all people to live, work, and make decisions about their health and future with dignity and economic security requires both access abortion care and the ability to raise children and thrive in safe, healthy communities free from police brutality or other state-sanctioned violence; and,

WHEREAS, reproductive health care, including abortion care, is essential, time-sensitive health care that cannot be delayed even during a global pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, abortion providers in Florida are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic as they work with public health providers, hospitals, and others to serve their communities, conserve health resources, and ensure patients can get the time-sensitive reproductive health care they need, including birth control and abortion, while prioritizing keeping their patients and staff safe; and,

WHEREAS, abortion is a constitutional right and remains legal in all 50 states; and,

WHEREAS, access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion, contraception, prenatal care, labor and delivery services, and postpartum care, are necessary for people's overall health, and health care is a fundamental human right; and,

WHEREAS, every person, regardless of race, gender identity, income level, age, and immigration status, should have access to the full range of reproductive health care, starting before they ever become pregnant and including contraception, abortion, and prenatal and postpartum care; and,

WHEREAS, the ability of women and all people who can become pregnant to access safe and legal abortion when they need it is also a critical component of their health and dignity, as well as independence, freedom, and social and economic equality; and,

WHEREAS, abortion is one of the safest medical procedures in the United States, and experts at the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine published a study in 2018 confirming that scientific evidence consistently indicates that legal abortions in the U.S., including those performed in the second trimester, are extremely safe and that medically unnecessary regulations of abortion can diminish the quality of abortion care by contributing to

the decline of facilities that provide abortion, needlessly delaying abortion, and making it unnecessarily difficult to access abortion care;¹ and,

WHEREAS, according to leading public health organizations such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Medical Association, and the American Academy of Family Physicians blocking access to legal abortion "jeopardize[s] women's health"²; and,

WHEREAS, the impact of abortion restrictions is predominantly felt by those who already experience barriers to health care, including young people, people of color and those with disabilities, people with low incomes, immigrants of all statuses, and people who live in rural areas; and,

WHEREAS, Florida continues to pass laws restricting abortion access, including restricting young people's access to abortion care, and has funded anti-abortion pregnancy centers. Additionally, they have attempted to pass other restrictive laws such as targeted regulation of abortion providers, otherwise known as TRAP laws, that are medically unnecessary and pose an undue burden on abortion providers, and even an all-out abortion ban; and,

WHEREAS, when a person has decided to have an abortion, they should be able to do so safely, in their own community, and without shame, pressure, or harassment; and,

WHEREAS, no one in Gainesville should face threats or harassment from protesters when entering a clinic to seek health care;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA that the city states its commitment to the protection of abortion rights, reproductive health care rights, and individuals' rights to make reproductive decisions about their own bodies; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA that the city is committed to consulting with local reproductive health, rights, and justice experts and stakeholders to explore meaningful and affirmative actions the Gainesville City Commission can take to affirm these values; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA that the city urges the Florida Legislature to join other states in protecting and promoting access to reproductive health care and the fundamental right to abortion by doing the following: (1) promoting preventive health care services for all; (2) ensuring that every individual has access to comprehensive, affordable health care that includes pregnancy-related care, including prenatal care, miscarriage management, family

¹ Nat'l Academies of Sci., Engineering, and Med. ("Nat'l Academies"), The Safety & Quality of Abortion Care in the U.S. (March 2018).

² Brief for American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists et al. as Amici Curiae Supporting Appellant at 5, Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt, 136 S. Ct. 2292 (2016) 2016 WL 74948.

planning services, abortion care, labor and delivery services, and postnatal care; and (3) improving access to reproductive health care; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA that the City Clerk to the Gainesville City Commission shall cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to members of the Alachua County State Legislative Delegation, Florida Congresswoman Kat Cammack, and Governor Ron DeSantis.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of September 2021.

Lauren Poe
Mayor

ATTEST:

Omichele Gainey, City Clerk