



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

June 3, 2022

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Mayor
Government of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004
muriel.bowser@dc.gov

Councilmember Robert White
Chair, Committee on Government Operations and Facilities
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 107
Washington, DC 20004
rwhite@dccouncil.us

RE: Providing Sanctuary and Maintaining Abortion Access in Washington, DC

Dear Mayor Bowser and Councilmember White,

At its regular meeting on May 19, 2022, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“**ANC 2A**” or “**Commission**”) considered the above-referenced matter. With six of eight commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted (**5-0-1**), after a motion made by Commissioner Patel and seconded by Commissioner Epstein, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, abortion is a common and safe form of healthcare,

WHEREAS, Washington, DC was one of the few cities in the U.S. where abortion was legal in 1972. It was not until January 22, 1973 that the Supreme Court of the United States in the Roe v. Wade decision affirmed the constitutional right to privacy and a woman’s right to choose whether or not to have an abortion,

WHEREAS, 16 states and Washington, DC have laws protecting abortion even without Roe v. Wade: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington,

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States could eliminate constitutional protections for abortion in its pending decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, resulting in individual U.S. states enacting further restrictions on abortion services,



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WHEREAS, if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, according to the Center for Reproductive Rights, 25 states are likely to ban abortion if they are allowed to: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. This will endanger the life of their citizens, while also making the need for out of state access even more vital,

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, and intimidation and physical obstruction are common tools used to deter individuals from accessing and providing abortion services, and

WHEREAS, Washington, DC is a city that respects the right of every citizen to maintain medical privacy, autonomy, and their right to choose, and sees those rights as inalienable.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council to guarantee access and affordability for reproductive health services in the District of Columbia to all who may seek it through DC Council Bill B24-0726 – the “Enhancing Reproductive Health Protections Amendment Act of 2022” and DC Council Bill B24-0808 – the “Human Rights Sanctuary Amendment Act of 2022” or similar measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges all relevant offices within the Government of the District of Columbia, including but not limited to the Mayor, the DC Council, the Office of the Attorney General, and DC Health, to 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council and the Mayor to pass and sign into law legislation protecting self-management of abortions and medical practitioners’ right to offer abortions and related reproductive health services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council and the Mayor to pass and sign into law full Medicaid funding of abortion and other reproductive health services in the District of Columbia, including for self-medicated abortions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the Government of the District of Columbia 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.



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council and the Mayor to 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 which was recently introduced in Connecticut.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council and the Mayor to voice support for H.R. 3755 – 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 U.S.

Commissioners Trupti Patel (2A03@anc.dc.gov) and Joel Causey (2A02@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Joel Causey
Chairperson