

RESOLUTION 8-B-22

**A RESOLUTION ON *DOBBS VS JACKSON WOMEN'S HEALTH ORGANIZATION*,
ABORTION RIGHTS, PRIVACY RIGHTS IN GENERAL, AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2022, the United States Supreme Court issued a decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that abandoned long standing precedents and overturned *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*;

WHEREAS, in abandoning this long standing precedent, the Supreme Court has also created doubt regarding the continued viability of its other "right to privacy" decisions, such as *Griswold v. Connecticut* (right to buy/use contraceptives) and *Obergefell v. Hodges*, (same-sex marriage rights);

WHEREAS, the resulting restrictions, and in some cases, prohibitions, on the ability to access abortion care in multiple states pose a dramatic threat to the health and safety of Americans;

WHEREAS, these restriction and prohibitions are making medications used in abortion procedures unavailable for other types of procedures that are unrelated to abortion;

WHEREAS, Governor Glenn Youngkin's proposed ban on abortion care at 15 weeks of pregnancy threatens the safety and rights of Virginians, including Blacksburg residents, and would create a serious public health concern in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council adopts the following findings, based on Arlington County's earlier statement on this topic:

Abortion care is a critical component of reproductive health care. Medical research and practice show that safe abortion services improve the bodily and mental health, safety, and financial stability of those seeking abortions. In a country with maternal mortality rates more than double those of other developed nations, a shortage of maternity care providers and no guaranteed access to postpartum care or paid parental leave, forced pregnancy and birth will increase morbidity and mortality.

Also, denial of safe abortion care is linked to negative social determinants of health for existing children, who are more likely to live below the poverty line and more likely to be exposed to intimate partner violence than the children of pregnant individuals with access to abortion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Blacksburg that the Blacksburg Town Council hereby expresses its commitment to (i) advocating for legislative and regulatory strategies that can forestall this threat to health and safety and (ii) to the greatest degree possible, supporting the health care needs of Blacksburg residents. To accomplish these objectives, the Council states that it will take the following actions:

- a. Making the protection of reproductive rights (and related privacy rights) a core legislative priority in future Virginia General Assembly sessions; and
- b. Advocating for federal legislation and executive action that will protect and expand access to abortion, such as expanded access to medication abortion.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Town Clerk

Date of Adoption: August 23, 2022