

R-21-016
TOWNSHIP OF MONTCLAIR

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF THE NEW JERSEY
REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM ACT (S3030/A4848)**

January 19, 2021

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has highlighted that comprehensive and appropriate healthcare is not affordable and accessible for all residents of all communities throughout our State. Many in our communities do not have health insurance and disparities exist in the type and quality of healthcare available and provided.

WHEREAS, nowhere in healthcare are the inequities and disparities more pronounced than in reproductive healthcare. In New Jersey, financial, geographical, and provider barriers to reproductive healthcare impact Black communities and people of color, low income people, immigrants and LGBTQ individuals disproportionately. Those with insurance coverage face unaffordable co-pays or limitations on contraception and abortion coverage; those without insurance and not eligible for Medicaid may not be able to access care at all. Many New Jersey communities do not have qualified abortion providers and people may need to travel hours to find proper services, or may be forced to go out of state to access care.

WHEREAS, the late civil rights icon Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg stated, “The decision whether or not to bear a child is central to a woman’s life, to her wellbeing and dignity. It is a decision she must make for herself. When government controls that decision for her, she is being treated as less than a fully adult human responsible for her own choices.” The *Roe v Wade* decision on January 22, 1973, legalizing abortion is one pillar which supports the foundation required for everyone who can become pregnant, including women, transgender, non-binary and gender non-confirming people, to be able to exercise their right to control their bodily autonomy and personal decision-making and receive the care needed to create their families or choose not to, without barriers, fear or interference.

WHEREAS, in furtherance of reproductive healthcare equality and access, the New Jersey Legislature has introduced the Reproductive Freedom Act (RFA) which affirms in statute that all New Jerseyans have the right to reproductive healthcare including abortion, removes unnecessary regulations and laws limiting access to abortion, ensures insurance coverage for all, and prevents new restrictions or regulations from being introduced. The RFA supports a future of racial, gender, economic, and social justice and where each one of us has the power, resources and support to care for ourselves, our families and our communities.

WHEREAS, the Township of Montclair believes that rights are not rights if there is no access to exercise them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Montclair, in recognition of the *Roe v Wade* anniversary, and because it is in the best interests of our residents to ensure that healthcare offerings are robust and inclusive in our State, that the

Township Council hereby supports and calls for passage of the Reproductive Freedom Act of New Jersey.