

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. 2022-016

Proclaiming March 10, 2022 as Abortion Provider Appreciation Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioner finds:

- a. On March 10, 1993, Dr. David Gunn was shot and killed by a white supremacist anti-abortion extremist, in the first known instance of the murder of an abortion provider.
- b. To honor his memory, March 10 has since been established as a day to show appreciation for the high-quality and essential health care that abortion providers and clinic staff provide, and to celebrate their courage, compassion, and dedication to their work.
- c. The decision about whether and when to become a parent is one of the most important life decisions a person can make, and abortion providers must be accessible in order for people to make real decisions about their bodies, lives, and futures.
- d. Abortion providers and clinic staff help to ensure that all women, trans men, gender-non-binary and all other people who can become pregnant, can make their own decisions about their bodies and their pregnancies, and support their patients' decisions by treating them with dignity, compassion, and respect.
- e. 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 by advanced practice clinicians and those performed in the second trimester, are extremely safe.
- f. The report also reinforced the well-documented reality that recent restrictions in some states have forced many abortion clinics to shut down, such that ninety percent of counties in the United States today do not have an abortion provider, while the Abortion Care Network found that the number of independent abortion clinics in the United States has declined by a third since 2012 and that the recent gutting of the Title X program has further threatened access to abortion referrals and abortion care, which has led women from around the region, including Alaska, Idaho, and Northern California, to come to Oregon for abortion care.

- g. The urban Native American communities and members of tribes who receive healthcare through Indian Health Services continue to face restricted access to abortion because of the federal Hyde Amendment. The Hyde Amendment also restricts abortion coverage for federally-funded health care recipients, specifically women enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid, U.S. servicewomen and veterans, women in Peace Corps, federal employee families, D. C. women residents, and women in immigration detention facilities and prisons.¹
- h. The National Abortion Federation's 2018 statistics on violence and disruption found an alarming escalation in incidences of obstruction, vandalism, and trespassing at abortion clinics. In Multnomah County, despite continuing affirmation of our community's pro-choice majority, our providers have been subject to harassment and protest that disrupts patient care, burdens clinics and stigmatizes providers and those that they serve.
- i. The Supreme Court of the United States is currently considering *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health*, which has the potential to severely limit or completely overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark decision that legalized abortion across the United States. Should this happen, Oregon is one of only 3 states and the District of Columbia in which the right to abortion throughout a pregnancy is codified and would remain protected by law.²
- j. Abortion providers in Multnomah County and clinic staff courageously provide care in the face of these restrictions, political interference, and threats to their personal safety.
- k. The country is currently facing two ongoing crises, the COVID-19 pandemic and police brutality, that disproportionately impact people of color, especially Black people. Multnomah County Commissioners declared Racism as a Public Health issue on April 8, 2021 demonstrating their commitment to address health inequities and disparities in access to quality education, employment, housing, and healthcare.
- l. In this important moment of protest against systemic racism, it is more important than ever to affirm the right of all people to control their lives, their bodies, and their futures, and that includes the right to choose if, when, and how to become a parent, and to parent children in a safe and healthy environment.
- m. Reproductive health care, including abortion care, is essential, time-sensitive health care that cannot be delayed even during a global pandemic.
- n. Abortion providers in Multnomah County are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic as they work with public health providers, hospitals, and others to

¹ "[Legislative Restrictions on Access to Abortion](#)". NARAL Pro-Choice America. Retrieved April 11, 2017.

² [Guttmacher](#)

serve their communities, conserve health resources, and ensure patients can get the time-sensitive reproductive health care they need, including birth control, abortions, while prioritizing keeping their patients and staff safe.

- o. Self-managed abortion via medication, assisted by a doula, provider, and/or surrounded by supportive loved ones, is a valid and affirming form of abortion, and those who self-manage their abortions should not be subject to prosecution or criminalization.
- p. Abortion providers, clinic staff who support them, and their patients, are an essential and valued part of the continuum of health care in Multnomah County, providing quality, compassionate, and necessary health care to both community members and those who travel here for care.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

- 1. March 10th to be Abortion Provider Appreciation Day in Multnomah County.
- 2. We thank and support the many abortion providers in Multnomah County, including OHSU Center for Women's Health, Lilith Clinic, and Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette, are committed to ensuring their safety and continued operation in Multnomah County, and welcome patients traveling to Multnomah County to access the abortion care they need.

Adopted this 10th day of March, 2022.