

RESOLUTION NO. 20181004-035

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is dedicated to reproductive freedom and quality reproductive healthcare as seen in the successful passage of Ordinance No. 20100408-027, Resolution No. 20130321-045, Resolution No. 20140925-082, Resolution No. 20141120-038, and Resolution No. 20151015-039; and

WHEREAS, Austin City Council passed Resolution No. 20170126-045, the “Abortion is Healthcare” Resolution, which recognizes that abortion is an essential component of health care; affirms that safe and legal abortion should be affordable and accessible for all who seek care; and supports the work of health care providers in Austin and Travis County who face threats and violence for providing safe and legal abortion care; and

WHEREAS, people need access to safe, affordable, and comprehensive reproductive healthcare throughout their lives, including screenings for cancer and sexually transmitted infections, contraceptive services, abortion care, prenatal care, and labor and delivery services; and

WHEREAS, in its landmark decision on January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Roe v. Wade* that the U.S. Constitution safeguards the ability for an individual to make personal medical decisions about when or whether to have children; and

WHEREAS, health insurance—whether private or government-funded—should cover the full range of options when an individual is facing an unintended pregnancy so that they are able to make the decision they deem best for themselves and their family; and

WHEREAS, as a community we must guard against efforts to deliberately erode the availability and affordability of abortion and undermine the protections provided by *Roe v. Wade*; and

WHEREAS, one such restriction is the Hyde Amendment, passed by Congress on September 30, 1976, which has for more than 40 years denied abortion coverage for low-income women enrolled in the Medicaid health insurance program, state and federal employees, Peace Corps members, and beneficiaries of Indian Health Services and military insurance programs; and

WHEREAS, this amendment significantly impedes the aforementioned groups' ability to access abortion; and

WHEREAS, Rosie Jimenez of McAllen, Texas, was enrolled in the Medicaid health insurance program and in 1978 was the first-known woman to die of an unsafe abortion after the Hyde Amendment was enacted; and

WHEREAS, the Travis County Medical Assistance Program provided coverage for abortion care until 2011; and

WHEREAS, when health insurance coverage for abortion is restricted, the harm falls hardest on those who already face significant barriers to receiving high-quality health care,

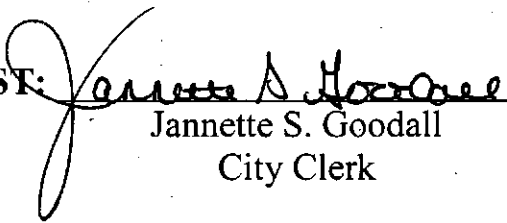
such as low-income women, immigrant women, young women, women of color, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people; and

WHEREAS, such targeted restrictions represent the nexus of deeply entrenched economic injustice, racism, and gender inequity; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that funding for comprehensive reproductive healthcare is increased and that abortion is covered as part of comprehensive reproductive health care in all insurance programs to ensure services are accessible for communities who are enrolled in such programs; **NOW, THEREFORE:**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The Austin City Council supports the repeal of both public and private insurance coverage bans on abortion care. The Austin City Council recognizes the importance of safe and affordable access to abortion care in order to prevent avoidable harm and loss of life like the tragic death of Rosie Jimenez.

ADOPTED: October 4, 2018 **ATTEST:**  _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk