



CITY OF EASTHAMPTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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A resolution that will affirm and demonstrate Easthampton's commitment to reproductive freedom and the right to safe and legal abortion¹

WHEREAS, abortion is a constitutional right and remains legal in all 50 states; and

WHEREAS, access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion, contraception, prenatal care, labor and delivery services, and postpartum care, are necessary for a person's overall health, and health care is a fundamental human right; and

WHEREAS, a person's ability to access safe and legal abortion when they need it is also a critical component of their health and dignity, as well as independence, freedom, and social and economic equality; and

WHEREAS, when access to abortion is restricted, these restrictions harm most those who already face significant barriers to receiving high-quality health care, such as low-income individuals, immigrants, young people, people of color, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people; and

WHEREAS, every person, regardless of race, gender identity, income level, and immigration status, should have access to the full range of reproductive health care, starting before they ever become pregnant and including contraception, abortion, and prenatal and postpartum care; and

WHEREAS, 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 in the second trimester, are extremely safe; and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a historic and landmark decision, ruled in *Roe v. Wade* that the U.S. Constitution safeguards a person's ability to make their own personal medical decisions about when or whether to have children; and

¹ Upon recommendation of City Councilor Margaret Conniff

WHEREAS, the constitutional right to abortion has been affirmed in subsequent Supreme Court cases, including *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992), and *Whole Women’s Health v. Hellerstedt* (2016); and

WHEREAS, the Trump-Pence administration is pursuing policies to ban abortion, defund reproductive health care providers, cut maternity coverage out of health plans, limit access to affordable birth control, and prohibit Medicaid from covering abortion care; and

WHEREAS, the Trump-Pence administration’s hostile stance on abortion and reproductive and sexual rights has emboldened many states to consider further restrictive policies, including bans on abortion or trigger laws which would ban abortion outright if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned; and

WHEREAS, with the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh in October of 2018, the Supreme Court now contains a majority of Justices who may not interpret the Constitution to provide protection for the right to end a pregnancy and may overturn or severely limit *Roe v. Wade*; and

WHEREAS, many states including Louisiana, Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia, and Missouri have, in direct conflict with Supreme Court precedent, recently passed laws that ban or restrict access to legal and safe abortions, and similar measures have been proposed in several more states; and

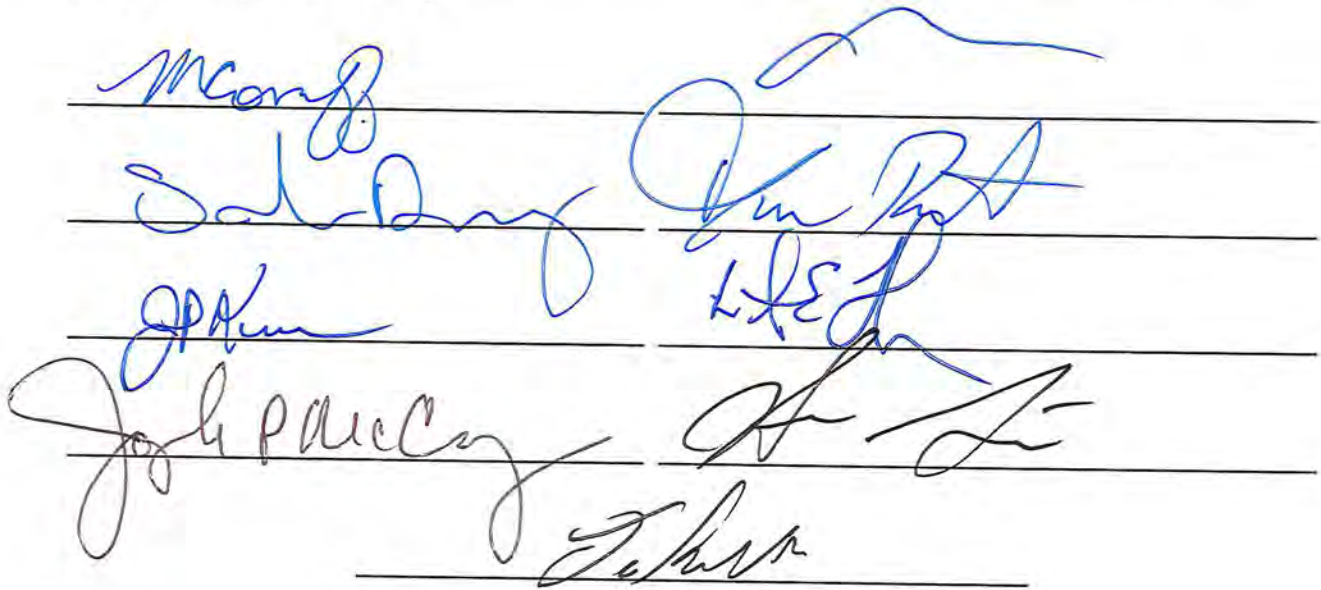
WHEREAS, cities and towns have the power to mitigate efforts to deliberately erode the availability and affordability of abortion and undermine the protections provided by *Roe v. Wade*; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts State Senate is currently considering S.1209, “An Act to Remove Obstacles and Expand Abortion Access,” also known as the “ROE Act,” which has not been co-sponsored by State Senator Donald Humason, and the Massachusetts House is considering H.3320, “An Act Removing Obstacles and Expanding Access to Women’s Reproductive Health,” co-sponsored by State Representative Daniel Carey, both bills would remove medically unnecessary abortion restrictions and inflammatory language from Massachusetts law, ensure that a pregnant person can access abortion care after 24 weeks of pregnancy in the case of a fatal fetal diagnosis, and improve a young person’s ability to receive trained support and safely access abortion care.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Easthampton hereby states its commitment to the protection of abortion rights, reproductive health care rights, and individuals’ rights to make reproductive decisions about their own bodies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Easthampton does hereby support the immediate passage of Massachusetts Senate Bill S.1209, "An Act to Remove Obstacles and Expand Abortion Access," House Bill H.3320, "An Act Removing Obstacles and Expanding Access to Women's Reproductive Health to reinforce the Commonwealth's Constitution that recognizes the legal right to abortion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the City Council of Easthampton shall cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren; U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey; U.S. Representative James P. McGovern; Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker; lead sponsor of S.1209, State Senator Harriet L. Chandler; lead sponsors of H.3320, State Representatives Patricia A. Haddad and Jay D. Livingstone; State Senator Donald Humason and State Representative Daniel Carey.

The image shows several handwritten signatures in blue ink on horizontal lines. From top to bottom, the signatures are: 1. A signature that appears to be 'Morgan'. 2. A signature that appears to be 'Sal Dwyer'. 3. A signature that appears to be 'John P. Carey'. 4. A signature that appears to be 'John P. Carey' written in a larger, more stylized font. 5. A signature that appears to be 'John P. Carey' written in a smaller, more stylized font. 6. A signature that appears to be 'John P. Carey' written in a smaller, more stylized font. 7. A signature that appears to be 'John P. Carey' written in a smaller, more stylized font.

City Council, Easthampton, Massachusetts