

**RESOLUTION 225**  
**EACH WOMAN ACT**

**WHEREAS**, reproductive health is a vital component of a woman's overall health, and a woman's freedom to make reproductive decisions is vital to her safety, well-being, economic opportunity, and ability to participate equally in society; and

**WHEREAS**, women need access to safe, affordable, and comprehensive reproductive health care throughout their lives, including screening for cancer and sexually transmitted infections, contraceptive services, abortion care, prenatal care, and labor and delivery services; and

**WHEREAS**, January 22, 2019 marks 46 years since the U.S. Supreme Court, in a historic and landmark decision, ruled in *Roe v. Wade* that the U.S. Constitution safeguards a woman's ability to make her own personal medical decisions about when or whether to have children; and

**WHEREAS**, in the last 46 years, access to abortion care has allowed women to participate more fully in society, saved lives, and strengthened families; and

**WHEREAS**, the government, by partially or fully subsidizing health insurance and health care services for individuals who meet certain eligibility criteria, recognizes that health care is essential to protect an individual's ability to fully participate in her family, community, and society; and

**WHEREAS**, health insurance, whether private or government funded, should cover the full range of a woman's options when she is facing an unintended pregnancy, so that she is able to make the decision she deems best for her and her family without interference; and

**WHEREAS**, 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 federal Hyde Amendment, passed by Congress on September 30, 1976, which has been denying women use of Medicaid insurance for abortion for more than 40 years and represents the nexus of deeply entrenched economic injustice, racism, and gender inequity;

**WHEREAS**, the impact of policies that restrict coverage of abortion in public or private insurance fall hardest on low-income women, women of color, immigrant and undocumented women, survivors of domestic violence, transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals, and young women; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 10,000 women of reproductive age in St. Louis enrolled in Medicaid are denied coverage for comprehensive pregnancy-related care that includes abortion care, because Missouri Healthnet restricts coverage of abortion; and

**WHEREAS**, Missouri law also bans insurance coverage of abortion on the state insurance exchange and in private insurance plans; and

**WHEREAS**, state and federal employees, Peace Corps members, and beneficiaries of Indian Health Services and military insurance programs, obtain insurance coverage through other public insurance programs that also include federal restrictions that withhold coverage for abortion; and

**WHEREAS**, the Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH) Woman Act was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in July 2015 and reintroduced in January 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the EACH Woman Act would ensure coverage for abortion for every woman: however much she earns, however she is insured, or wherever she lives, and prohibits political interference with decisions of private health insurance companies to offer coverage for abortion care; and

**WHEREAS**, laws that restrict insurance coverage of abortion can create insurmountable obstacles to quality health care; 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**, a woman who wants to get an abortion but is denied is more likely to fall into poverty than one who can get an abortion; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that funding of comprehensive reproductive health care be increased and that abortion be covered as part of comprehensive reproductive health care in all public insurance programs to ensure that services are accessible for women who are enrolled in such programs.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the St. Louis City Board of Aldermen calls upon state elected officials to provide abortion care coverage in public and private insurance programs in Missouri.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the St. Louis City Board of Aldermen calls upon Congress and President Trump to support and reinstate insurance coverage for abortion services for women enrolled in public insurance programs by enacting the EACH Woman Act.

Introduced this 25th day of January, 2019 by:

**Honorable Annie Rice, Alderwoman 8th Ward**  
**Honorable Megan E. Green, Alderwoman 15th Ward**  
**Honorable Christine Ingrassia, Alderwoman 6th Ward**  
**Honorable Cara Spencer, Alderwoman 20th Ward**  
**Honorable Heather Navarro, Alderwoman 28th Ward**  
**Honorable Dan Guenther, Alderman 9<sup>th</sup> Ward**

Adopted this 25th day of January 2019 as attested by:

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Louis Galli  
Interim Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen