

Resolution No. -2019

Council Members Cleveland, Zone and McCormack

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION
Opposing Senate Bill 23 which prohibits abortion when a fetal heartbeat is detected.

WHEREAS, on April 11, 2019, Governor DeWine signed Senate Bill 23 into law, which prohibits an abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detected; and

WHEREAS, this prohibition negatively impacts a woman's right to reproductive health care services in Cleveland and the State of Ohio by effectively eliminating access to all legal abortion services without exceptions for cases of rape and incest and without adequate protections for the life and health of the woman; and

WHEREAS, this law is one of the most restrictive bans on abortions in the United States; similar laws passed in other states have been universally ruled unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, under Senate Bill 23 doctors and others who perform abortions would face felony charges if they perform an abortion after detecting a heartbeat or if they fail to perform an abdominal or transvaginal ultrasound to check for a heartbeat; and

WHEREAS, threatening doctors with prison time and fines for performing this medical procedure will negatively impact the ability of this city to attract and retain qualified medical professionals; and

WHEREAS, rather than implementing regressive and extreme policies like Senate Bill 23, Ohio legislators should instead focus on implementing and providing supportive services not only to reduce unintended pregnancies but also to assist pregnant women, and to promote the success of families by investing in comprehensive sex education, access to contraceptives, parenting classes and quality affordable childcare; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health, or safety, now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That this Council opposes Senate Bill 23 that prohibits abortion when a fetal heartbeat is detected.

Section 2. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

MZ:rns
04/29/19