

Resolution No. 447-2023

By Council Members Howse, Maurer, Spencer, Santana, Gray, Griffin, Bishop, Conwell, Hairston, Harsh, Jones, Kazy, Kelly, McCormack, Polensek, Slife, Starr

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Supporting the Reproductive Rights ballot initiative, “The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety”, and a citizen’s right to gather signatures to amend the Ohio Constitution with a simple majority of 50% plus one vote of the electorate.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Ohio are able to exercise their right to amend the Ohio Constitution through a ballot initiative process; and

WHEREAS, Ohio law states that a simple majority of 50% plus one vote is sufficient for a constitutional amendment to pass; and

WHEREAS, Ohioans for Reproductive Freedom and Ohio Physicians for Reproductive Rights have drafted ballot language for a Constitutional Amendment, “The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety”, which groups are working in partnership with citizens across the state to gather signatures to put the language on the ballot for a vote; and

WHEREAS, reproductive rights are human rights and a Constitutional Amendment would enshrine the right to an abortion in Ohio's constitution; it is also about miscarriage management, IVF, and access to birth control; and

WHEREAS, the right to choose abortion is essential to ensuring any child-bearing individual can decide for themselves if, when and with whom to start or grow a family – a fundamental issue of economic rights; and

WHEREAS, this Council believes that every person should be able to make their own health care decisions along with their families and doctors; politicians have no right to insert themselves in personal healthcare decisions; 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 supports the Reproductive Rights ballot initiative, “The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety”, and a citizen’s right to gather signatures to amend the Ohio Constitution with a simple majority of 50% plus one vote of the electorate.

Section 2. That the Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to Governor Mike DeWine, Attorney General Dave Yost and to all members of the Ohio General Assembly.

Section 3. 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.

JS:rns

4/10/2023

