

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO STRONGLY SUPPORT PASSAGE OF THE WOMEN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT OF 2021 TO PROTECT THE RIGHT TO ACCESS AND PROVIDE ABORTION SERVICES.

WHEREAS, the United States is experiencing a rise in the number of legal attacks on constitutionally protected reproductive rights; and

WHEREAS, in November 2021, the United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments in Whole Woman's Health v. Jackson, that asks the Court to determine whether the enforcement scheme of Texas's Senate Bill No. 8 (2021) shields the law from review in federal court; and

WHEREAS, the noted legal scholar Joanna L. Grossman called the case "a challenge to the constitutionality of the most extreme abortion law currently in force in the country"; and

WHEREAS, Texas's Senate Bill No. 8 prohibits abortions after the detection of embryonic cardiac activity, which usually occurs around six weeks after the first day of a pregnant woman's last menstrual period; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 8 precludes direct law enforcement by the State of Texas and instead deputizes any person in the world with the authority to bring a private lawsuit against anyone who provides or abets an abortion after the cut-off point to collect at least \$10,000 in damages; and

WHEREAS, in December 2021, the United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments in another case,  $Dobbs\ v.\ Jackson\ Women's$   $Health\ Organization$ , which puts at stake the constitutional right to an abortion; and

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WHEREAS, the Dobbs case involves a challenge to a 2018 Mississippi law that bans all abortions after fifteen weeks unless necessary to save the life of the pregnant woman; and

WHEREAS, these two cases threaten decades of legal precedent establishing the constitutional right to an abortion in *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973); and

WHEREAS, most women in the United States today have never lived without access to the full range of reproductive and health care services that are now under threat; and

WHEREAS, the Women's Health Protection Act of 2021, H.R. 3755, 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, protects a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, that Hawaii's congressional delegation is urged to strongly support the Women's Health Protection Act of 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to each member of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

OFFERED BY:

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