

House Concurrent Resolution No. 18

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MORGAN.

1520H.011

1 **WHEREAS**, Missouri is committed to a quality health care system that meets the needs
2 of all of its citizens and affordable abortion care is an essential component of this health care
3 system. Since about three in ten women will have an abortion in their lifetime, it is one of the
4 most common medical procedures in the United States; and

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6 **WHEREAS**, abortion is one of the safest medical procedures in the United States.
7 Aspiration abortion, for example, causes no complications in 99 percent of cases, and medication
8 abortion causes no complications in more than 99.9 percent of cases, making it safer than
9 Tylenol, aspirin, and Viagra; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, abortion has become less accessible. The number of abortion clinics has
12 declined by about 40 percent over the past three decades. Today, almost 90 percent of counties
13 in the United States do not have an abortion provider and 38 percent of women of reproductive
14 age live in those counties. Four states have only one provider and at least ten states have three
15 or fewer providers; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, abortion is an essential component of health care because it provides all
18 women the ability to plan and space their pregnancies, which clearly improves women's
19 physical, psychological, and economic well-being; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, abortion is an essential component of health care for women with lower
22 incomes. A five-year examination of the effects of unintended pregnancy on women's lives by
23 ANSIRH (Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health) found that the main reason women
24 terminate their pregnancies is because they can't afford to have a child; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, abortion is an essential component of health care for women who face
27 medical problems. For example, a woman who is diagnosed with cancer in the middle of
28 pregnancy and must make a choice between obtaining an abortion or foregoing lifesaving
29 chemotherapy; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, abortion is an essential component of health care for young teenagers who
32 become pregnant. For example, a girl who must make a choice between obtaining an abortion
33 or running the risk of enduring severe, lasting damage to her physical health; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, abortion is an essential component of health care for women who
36 experience major problems in pregnancy. For example, a women who finds out that her fetus
37 would only live for a few hours past birth and carrying that pregnancy to term might severely
38 damage her ability to bear other children in the future; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, the practice of abortion care, like all health care, should be driven by
41 evidence-based standards developed and supported by medical professionals. But instead,
42 patients and providers are required to overcome numerous barriers erected by abortion
43 opponents. These barriers such as waiting periods, so-called “counseling” requirements, bans
44 on insurance coverage, limits on who can perform abortions, and TRAP laws are not intended
45 to protect a woman’s safety. They are designed to coerce women into giving birth to unwanted
46 children. They serve no purpose other than to make abortion more difficult and expensive; and

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48 **WHEREAS**, when abortion opponents argue for onerous regulations and procedures,
49 they are treating abortion care as if it is a separate issue apart from health care. But abortion is,
50 in fact, health care:

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52 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
53 Representatives of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
54 concurring therein, hereby resolve that Missouri is committed to ensuring that:

55 (1) Abortion shall be recognized as an essential component of women’s health care; and

56 (2) Abortion care shall be made affordable and accessible throughout the state and
57 integrated into the health care safety net; and

58 (3) Facilities providing abortion care or health care professionals providing abortion care
59 shall not be subjected to regulations more burdensome than those imposed on facilities or health
60 care professionals that provide medically comparable procedures; and

61 (4) All qualified health care professionals shall be able to provide abortion care; and

62 (5) Health care professionals providing abortion care shall be able to follow best medical
63 practices developed and supported by scientific evidence.

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