

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

House Resolution

H.R. 4

House resolution supporting a woman's right to decide her own reproductive choices and commemorating the 40th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*

Offered by: Representatives Krowinski of Burlington, Bartholomew of Hartland, Clarkson of Woodstock, Connor of Fairfield, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Dakin of Chester, Deen of Westminster, Emmons of Springfield, Fisher of Lincoln, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Gallivan of Chittenden, Grad of Moretown, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Heath of Westford, Hooper of Montpelier, Jewett of Ripton, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lenes of Shelburne, Macaig of Williston, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Springfield, Masland of Thetford, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McCullough of Williston, Michelsen of Hardwick, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mook of Bennington, Moran of Wardsboro, Mrowicki of Putney, O'Brien of Richmond, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Partridge of Windham, Pugh of South Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweaney of Windsor, Taylor of Barre City, Till of Jericho, Toleno of Brattleboro, Trieber of Rockingham, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of Shelburne, Wizowaty of Burlington, Woodward of Johnson, and Zagar of Barnard

Whereas, on January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), established that the U.S. Constitution protects a woman's right to privacy and limits government interference with medical decisions, and

Whereas, the House of Representatives believes that the decision in *Roe v. Wade* ensures that abortion remains a safe and legal procedure for a woman to consider, if and when she needs it, and

Whereas, as the State of Vermont pursues major health care reform, it should be a public policy goal to enhance the health of all citizens, including women of all ages, and to strengthen individuals and families by encouraging and promoting access to comprehensive family planning services and to prenatal support services that help ensure that planned pregnancies remain healthy throughout their entire term, and

Whereas, the General Assembly's repeal of the dated and restrictive 13 V.S.A. Chapter 3 would remove the statutory prohibition on abortion procedures in Vermont and serve as an important legislative action in support of a woman's reproductive rights as well as help a health care provider to perform an abortion procedure without fear of criminal liability, and

Whereas, this legislative body believes that abortion is a deeply personal and often complex decision for a woman, and therefore decisions about whether to choose adoption, end a pregnancy, or raise a child must be left to a

woman, her family, and her faith, with the counsel of her doctor or health care provider, and

Whereas, a majority of Americans support access to safe and legal abortion and oppose efforts to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, and

Whereas, the 2012 elections sent a powerful and unmistakable message to members of Congress and state legislatures that people do not want politicians to interfere with their personal medical decisions, and

Whereas, violence against providers of family planning services and restrictions on access to abortion endanger the lives of women, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That on the 40th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, this legislative body urges Congress and other state legislatures to preserve the rights protected in *Roe v. Wade*, and be it further

Resolved: That this legislative body recognizes the critical importance of continued access to safe and legal abortion, and be it further

Resolved: That this legislative body reaffirms the right of every Vermont woman to privacy, autonomy, and safety in making personal decisions regarding reproduction and family planning, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

Shapleigh Smith, Jr.
Speaker of the House

Attested to:

Donald G. Milne
Clerk, House of Representatives

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