

No. R-11. Joint resolution supporting a woman's right to decide her own reproductive choices, commemorating the 42nd anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade, and the 50th anniversary of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England.

(J.R.H.2)

Offered by: Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, Grad of Moretown, Krowinski of Burlington, Ancel of Calais, Berry of Manchester, Botzow of Pownal, Briglin of Thetford, Carr of Brandon, Clarkson of Woodstock, Cole of Burlington, Conquest of Newbury, Dakin of Chester, Davis of Washington, Deen of Westminster, Donovan of Burlington, Emmons of Springfield, Evans of Essex, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Hooper of Montpelier, Jerman of Essex, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Krebs of South Hero, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lenes of Shelburne, Lippert of Hinesburg, Lucke of Hartford, Macaig of Williston, Martin of Wolcott, Masland of Thetford, Morris of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Pearson of Burlington, Poirier of Barre City, Rachelson of Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Ryerson of Randolph, Sharpe of Bristol, Sheldon of Middlebury, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Burlington, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Toleno of Brattleboro, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City, 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 General Assembly 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 planned pregnancies remain healthy throughout their entire term, and

Whereas, the General Assembly believes that abortion is a deeply personal and often complex decision for a woman, and therefore whether to choose adoption, end a pregnancy, or raise a child must be left to the woman, her family, and her faith, with the counsel of her doctor or health care provider, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That on the 42nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade and the 50th anniversary of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, the General Assembly urges Congress and other state legislatures to preserve the rights protected in Roe v. Wade, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly recognizes the critical importance of continued access to safe and legal abortion, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly 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 General Assembly acknowledges and celebrates Planned Parenthood of Northern New England's 50 years of providing high quality health services to Vermonters and advocating for women's health, and be it further

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