RESOLUTION NO. 23-_____

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE RIGHT OF ALL NORTH CAROLINIANS TO SAFE AND COMPREHENSIVE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, health care is a fundamental human right, and access to gender-affirming, full-spectrum, and comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion, contraception, prenatal care, labor and delivery services, and postpartum care, are necessary for overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, after the United States Supreme Court overturned *Roe v Wade* in its decision in *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the North Carolina General Assembly passed Senate Bill 20 on a party-line vote which shall limit the rights of women and pregnant people, specifically their bodily autonomy, by prohibiting most abortions after 12 weeks of pregnancy and restricting access to medication abortion after 10 weeks of pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 20 erects new barriers to the provision of health care that are medically unnecessary, such as additional in-person appointments and new clinic requirements; and

WHEREAS, the impact of abortion restrictions is predominantly realized by those who already experience disparities in health care, including: people working to make ends meet; Black, Indigenous, and People of Global Majority; people with disabilities; immigrants of all statuses; members of the LGBTQIA+ community; and people who live in rural areas, which medical professionals say will lead to preventable deaths; and

WHEREAS, the threat of prosecution against providers, as well as disparities in our criminal legal system, can result in negative outcomes by intimidating people from seeking or providing care, and health care providers have an ethical obligation to provide essential care to their patients.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

1. The Asheville City Council hereby affirms its support for the right of all North Carolinians to safe and comprehensive reproductive health care, condemning the criminalization of providing essential health care, including full-spectrum reproductive and gender-affirming health care, and proclaiming that people deserve access to high-quality health care without fear of judgment, harassment, coercion, reprisal, or punishment;

2. The Asheville City Council commends members of our local delegation for their opposition to this legislation; and for support of Governor Roy Cooper's decision to veto it, which was overridden allowing the ratified bill to become law on July 1st, 2023.

Read, approved and adopted this 23rd day of May, 2023

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney