

**David Whitaker, Esq.**  
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*Director, Historic Designation Advisory Board*

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**Paige Blessman**  
**M. Rory Bolger, Ph.D., FAICP**  
**Eric Fazzini**  
**Christopher Gulock, AICP**


# City of Detroit

## CITY COUNCIL

**LEGISLATIVE POLICY DIVISION**  
208 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
Detroit, Michigan 48226  
Phone: (313) 224-4946 Fax: (313) 224-4336

**Derrick Headd**  
**Marcel Hurt, Esq.**  
**Kimani Jeffrey**  
**Edward King**  
**Jamie Murphy**  
**Kim Newby**  
**Analine Powers, Ph.D.**  
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TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: David Whitaker, Director   
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: May 9, 2022

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE**

Council member Scott Benson requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE.

Attached, please find our draft of the aforementioned resolution.

Attachment

**BY COUNCIL MEMBER SCOTT BENSON**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A WOMAN’S RIGHT TO CHOOSE**

**WHEREAS,** The mission of the Detroit City Council is to promote the economic, cultural and physical welfare of Detroit’s citizens through Charter-mandated legislative functions; and

**WHEREAS,** A draft opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS), obtained by the news entity Politico, revealed that the landmark Roe v. Wade decision, a bedrock of American law, may be on the verge of being reversed. According to the acquired document, a majority of SCOTUS, privately voted to strike down the historic case; and

**WHEREAS,** Roe v. Wade (Roe) is the 1973 SCOTUS decision which guaranteed federal constitutional protections of abortion rights, or a women’s right to choose in the United States. The majority opinion of the Court found that there is an absolute right to abortion during the first trimester of pregnancy. Now, almost 50 years later, these rights are threatened; and

**WHEREAS,** As news of the impending draft opinion surfaced, suggesting that Roe v. Wade will soon be overturned, crowds of protesters across the country marched and chanted in support of abortion rights in cities throughout the nation, such as New York, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta, Salt Lake City, Louisville, and here in Detroit; and

**WHEREAS,** A May 2022 ABC News/Washington Post poll found that approximately 70 percent of adults surveyed, stated that the decision to get an abortion should be left to the pregnant woman and her doctor; and

**WHEREAS,** The Detroit City Council is not speaking out as a proponent or opponent of abortion, but, only as an advocate of the fundamental right of a woman to choose and we do not feel it is appropriate for SCOTUS to savagely curtail that right; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Council, a steadfast supporter of the unalienable rights of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness," set forth in the Declaration of Independence, and a woman’s right to choose, is echoing the call of President Biden, and is now respectfully requesting that Congress work to codify the Roe decision, thereby providing a nationwide right for women to choose and not allowing the individual States to ban or determine the limits of abortion laws; **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY**

**RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Clerk is directed to send this resolution to the Detroit delegations of both the US House and Senate, in addition to President Joe Biden.