

House Resolution

No. 32

Introduced by Assembly Member Atkins

January 5, 2016

House Resolution No. 32—Relative to Women’s Reproductive Health.

1 WHEREAS, January 22, 2016, marks the 43rd anniversary of
2 the United States Supreme Court’s landmark decision in Roe v.
3 Wade, which affirmed that every woman has a fundamental right
4 to control her own reproductive decisions and to decide whether
5 to end or to continue pregnancy, and is an occasion deserving of
6 celebration; and

7 WHEREAS, Roe v. Wade has been the cornerstone of women’s
8 ability to control their reproductive lives, allowing every woman
9 in America the right to decide when, if, and with whom to have
10 children, and how many children to have; and

11 WHEREAS, Women’s ability to control their reproductive lives
12 has helped and facilitated their participation in the economic and
13 social life of our nation; and

14 WHEREAS, Roe v. Wade has drastically reduced the maternal
15 mortality rate for women terminating their pregnancies in the
16 United States. In the years prior to the decision, illegal abortion
17 accounted for approximately 17 percent of all reported deaths
18 attributable to pregnancy and childbirth, and many women were
19 severely injured as a result of “back alley” abortion procedures;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Interference with a woman’s right to choose causes
22 women to be forced into illegal and dangerous abortions, as they
23 often were in the United States before the Roe v. Wade decision.

1 Many women are forced to make these decisions today in countries
2 where abortion is illegal and where the unsafe methods of illegal
3 abortion lead to 13 percent of global maternal deaths annually, or
4 eight maternal deaths every hour. Many survivors of an illegal
5 abortion suffer serious and often permanent injuries; and

6 WHEREAS, Roe v. Wade continues to protect the health and
7 freedom of women throughout the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, The State of California stands in strong support of
9 every woman's fundamental right, as confirmed in Roe v. Wade,
10 to make her own decisions regarding her pregnancy; now, therefore,
11 be it

12 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
13 Assembly urges the President of the United States and the United
14 States Congress to express their support for a woman's fundamental
15 right to control her own reproductive decisions, as well as their
16 support for access to comprehensive reproductive health care,
17 including the services provided by Planned Parenthood; and be it
18 further

19 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
20 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
21 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
22 Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative
23 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the
24 author for appropriate distribution.