

RESOLUTION ON ABORTION AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2021, Florida Rep. Barnaby filed FL House Bill 167, a 6 week abortion ban, for the 2022 Florida legislative session, which contains medically inaccurate information about fetal viability, and

WHEREAS most women are not aware of being pregnant at 6 weeks, the time of a first heart movement on ultrasound cited in the bill as the standard for prohibiting abortion, and

WHEREAS, fetal viability comes much later in pregnancy than the 6 week standard claimed in the bill, and

WHEREAS, the bill is unconstitutional as it violates the provisions of the Roe v. Wade decision with regard to the duration of a pregnancy that can be interrupted, and

WHEREAS, HB167 allows any person to file a civil suit against any person—whether a health care provider, counselor, relative or financial donor-- who helps a patient obtain a prohibited abortion, and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis, FL Senate President Trilby, FL House Speaker Sprowls, and newly appointed Senate Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee Chair Garcia, all Republicans, are on record as favoring more laws restricting abortion in Florida, and

WHEREAS, Florida law already contains multiple abortion restrictions, including

- mandatory ultrasounds regardless of medical need;
- hospital admitting privileges when there is no medical need;
- parental consent –in person or notarized--for minors;
- prohibition of telemedicine;
- prohibition of prescribing by nurse practitioners;
- prohibition of Medicaid funding;
- restrictions on abortion for fetal abnormality;
- and taxpayer funding of “crisis pregnancy centers,” anti-abortion facilities that give false medical information; and

WHEREAS, Florida does not provide a safety net where all residents have access to comprehensive sex education, contraception, STD prevention, prenatal and obstetrical care, and home based services for new parents and babies; and

WHEREAS, Florida’s neglect of the public health, and its abortion restrictions, unjustly and disproportionately harms young, Black and Latino, LGBTQ, low income, rural, and incarcerated Floridians, while Floridians of means have always been more likely to find a way to get abortion care;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palm Beach County Democratic Party joins our Democratic elected officials in calling for Reproductive Justice. This means no further

abortion restrictions in 2022, and expanding essential medical services around reproduction, including Medicaid expansion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Palm Beach County Democratic Party will bring to the attention of the voting public, and especially women, the need to defend and expand Reproductive Justice in Florida by electing more Democrats to the FL Legislature.

By: H. Joan Waitkevicz MD, and the Legislative Committee: Phil Levitt, Legislative Committee Chair; Ellen Baker; Vice Chair, Amelia Rose, Maria Torres-Lopez, Allen Robbins, Charles Bantel, Cameron Stempel, Drew Martin, Ira Raab, Tricia Mischler, Ted Parsons, Joel Schleifer, Ben Cooper, Carole Silverstein,