

File No. 240120

Committee Item No. \_\_\_\_\_

Board Item No. 27

# COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: February 13, 2024

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### OTHER

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Prepared by: Lisa Lew

Date: February 9, 2024

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1 [Condemning Anti-Abortion Harassment in San Francisco]

2

3 **Resolution condemning anti-abortion harassment in San Francisco and affirming**  
4 **that the City and County of San Francisco has and will continue to stand in**  
5 **solidarity with health care providers and patients.**

6

7 WHEREAS, There are approximately 10 reproductive health care centers that  
8 operate in the City and County of San Francisco; and

9 WHEREAS, Reproductive health care centers provide essential health care  
10 services, especially for more vulnerable populations whose access to care is otherwise  
11 limited; and

12 WHEREAS, In March of 2022, a group of anti-abortion protesters invaded the  
13 Women’s Options Center at San Francisco General Hospital and were later charged  
14 with felony stalking and misdemeanors for obstructing freedom to access a clinic,  
15 vandalism, trespassing and other offenses; and

16 WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood Northern California (PPNorCal) has  
17 experienced a documented increase in protester activity since September 2023; and

18 WHEREAS, PPNorCal’s San Francisco location provides critical reproductive  
19 health care services including: Abortion Services; Birth Control; HIV Testing; PrEP and  
20 PEP; Emergency Contraception; Pregnancy Testing & Services; STI Testing;  
21 Vasectomies; Treatment & Vaccines; and Gender Affirming Hormone Therapy; and

22 WHEREAS, In PPNorCal’s 2023 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023) the  
23 San Francisco Health Center had 16,750 patient encounters; they conducted 35,921  
24 STI tests and treatments, and managed 4,934 contraception visits, 1,947 emergency  
25 contraception visits, and 6,464 pregnancy tests; and

1           WHEREAS, Organized protests and rallies, such as “40 Days for Life” and the  
2 “March for Life ” incite opportunities for extremists to harass, intimidate, and threaten  
3 bodily harm to health care providers and patients; and

4           WHEREAS, The “40 Days for Life” organizers have identified PPNorCal’s San  
5 Francisco Health Center as a “vigil” location for their winter campaign beginning on  
6 Wednesday, February 14, 2024; and

7           WHEREAS, In 1993, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted Police  
8 Code, Article 43, establishing that “Maintaining access to reproductive health care  
9 services is a matter of critical importance not only to individuals, but also to the health,  
10 safety, and welfare of all residents of the City” and finding the law “necessary to  
11 promote the full exercise of the right to privacy by patients seeking vital reproductive  
12 health care services and is also necessary to maintain public health, safety, and welfare  
13 within the City;” and

14           WHEREAS, In 1994, the United States Congress enacted the “Freedom of  
15 Access to Clinical Entrances” (FACE) Act, prohibiting violent, threatening, damaging  
16 and obstructive conduct intended to injure, intimidate, or interfere with the right to seek,  
17 obtain, or provide reproductive health services; and

18           WHEREAS, In 2022, voters in California approved Proposition 1, an amendment  
19 to the state constitution that “the state shall not deny or interfere with an individual's  
20 reproductive freedom in their most intimate decisions, which includes their fundamental  
21 right to choose to have an abortion and their fundamental right to choose or refuse  
22 contraceptives;” and

23           WHEREAS, In a 2022 report, the National Abortion Federation (“NAF”) found that  
24 abortion providers reported a significant increase in violence and disruption against  
25

1 staff; stalking of staff and patients rose 229% from 2021 to 2022 and burglary of health  
2 centers rose 231% from 2021 to 2022; and

3 WHEREAS, The report noted that there has been a “sharp increase in violence  
4 and disruption in states that are protective of abortion rights”, assault and battery  
5 increased by 29% from 2021 to 2022, burglaries increased by 100% from 2021 to 2022,  
6 and stalking increased by 913% from 2021 to 2022; and

7 WHEREAS, The Security Director of NAF has also asserted that “The threat of  
8 violence against abortion providers remains on the rise and is extremely concerning. In  
9 addition to an increase in major incidents, extremists are becoming more organized; for  
10 example, we’re seeing them target clinics on days when they know they will have more  
11 patients, are less staffed, or have less security;” and

12 WHEREAS, In 2021, the California Legislature enacted Assembly Bill No. 1356,  
13 which declared in part that, “[a]cts of violence and harassment against abortion  
14 providers have persisted in the decades since Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), and  
15 reproductive health centers are seeing an increase in threats and security incidents, as  
16 existing laws have not sufficiently deterred anti-abortion extremists;” the bill ensures  
17 “that people who need access to family planning and other sexual and reproductive  
18 health care services can do so confidentially and in a timely manner without  
19 harassment, threats, or fear of bodily harm;” and

20 WHEREAS, On June 7, 2022, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
21 (“DHS”) issued a National Terrorism Advisory System bulletin noting that “[g]iven a high-  
22 profile U.S. Supreme Court case about abortion rights, individuals who advocate both  
23 for and against abortion have, on public forums, encouraged violence, including against  
24 reproductive healthcare personnel facilities, as well as those with opposing ideologies;”  
25 and

1           WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Justice reported two federal indictments in  
2 2023 and seven federal criminal indictments in 2022 that involved violence or other  
3 conduct directed at reproductive health care providers; and

4           WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors unanimously declared via Resolution No.  
5 201-22, San Francisco to be a champion of reproductive freedom and justice; and

6           WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes that the right to  
7 free speech must be upheld but that it should not come at the cost of impeding a  
8 person's right to seek health care; now, therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the San  
10 Francisco Police Department and the City Attorney's Office to fully implement and  
11 enforce Article 43 of the law; and, be it

12           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the  
13 San Francisco Police Department to, where appropriate, coordinate responses with the  
14 local Federal Bureau of Investigation; and, be it

15           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
16 unequivocally condemns all forms of harassment against individuals seeking  
17 reproductive health care; and, be it

18           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco has and will  
19 continue to stand in solidarity with health care providers and patients who have the right  
20 to provide and seek care without fear of harassment, threat of intimidation, or fear of  
21 bodily harm.

22  
23  
24  
25

# Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp  
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor  inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No.  from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

**Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.**

Sponsor(s):

Stefani

Subject:

Condemning anti-abortion harassment in San Francisco and affirming that the City and County of San Francisco has and will continue to stand in solidarity with health care providers and patients

The text is listed:

Resolution condemning anti-abortion harassment in San Francisco and affirming that the City and County of San Francisco has and will continue to stand in solidarity with health care providers and patients.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: /s/ Catherine Stefani

For Clerk's Use Only