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Joint Board Matter

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With the Supreme Court’s ruling overturning *Roe v. Wade*, safe and accessible reproductive and women’s healthcare is now threatened across our nation, with many “trigger laws” banning abortion and related services being put into effect in several states.

I have heard from many residents concerned about the future of abortion providers and other reproductive healthcare services in Fairfax County. This is a very emotional issue and people throughout the nation are rightly concerned about the unknown future ahead. To be clear: the Supreme Court’s ruling does not make abortion illegal in Virginia. It does, however, put this decision into the hands of our state officials, some of whom have already promoted proposals that, if enacted, could severely restrict a woman’s right to choose.

I have long supported the notion that a woman's medical decisions are private – to be shared between herself and her medical provider. To make any informed decision regarding reproductive health, it is important that we ensure that our residents know the full slate of resources available to them in Fairfax County.

Therefore, we move that the Board of Supervisors direct staff from our Health and Human Services agencies to provide to the Board information about the reproductive healthcare resources and women's health services that currently exist in the County – provided by the private, non-profit, or public sector organizations. Recognizing the importance of privacy, efforts should also include collaboration between our Health Department and Department of Information Technology to prepare a webpage on reproductive and women's health services in Fairfax County.

We further move to direct our Legislative Director to keep the Board apprised of any current or potential legislative initiatives within the Virginia General Assembly that could either threaten or protect reproductive rights in Virginia. In addition, our Legislative Director should work with the legislative chair, Supervisor Walkinshaw, to schedule an upcoming committee meeting, if needed, for the Board to further discuss this matter.