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RESOLUTION NO. RES-19-0111

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH TO DENOUNCE GEORGIA'S LIVING INFANTS FAIRNESS AND EQUALITY (LIFE) ACT (HB 481) AND ALABAMA'S HB314, IMMEDIATELY SUSPEND OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO GEORGIA, ALABAMA AND ANY OTHER STATE WHICH ADOPTS SIMILAR HEARTBEAT LEGISLATION AND IMPOSING FINANCIAL SANCTIONS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE NEW LAW IS REVOKED, AMENDED, OR STRUCK DOWN

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2019, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp signed the Living Infants Fairness and Equality (LIFE) Act (HB 481), which bans abortions once a doctor can detect a fetal heartbeat, usually around six weeks of pregnancy, which is before many women know they are pregnant; and

WHEREAS, HB 481, which will take effect in 2020, provides exceptions to prevent death or serious harm to the pregnant woman, and in cases of rape or incest only when a police report has been filed; and

WHEREAS, with the passage of HB 481, Georgia, which previously banned abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy, proposes that the presence of an embryo's heartbeat, rather than a fetus' "viability outside of the womb" should be the benchmark for outlawing abortions; and

WHEREAS, Georgia is the fourth state to enact a six-week ban in 2019 and similar "heartbeat" bills are under consideration in 10 other states - Missouri, Tennessee, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, South Carolina and West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, physicians groups have expressed opposition to the legislation,

1 saying what appears to be a heartbeat at six weeks is simply a vibration of developing  
2 tissues that could not exist without the mother, and this legislation could exacerbate the  
3 state's shortage of OB-GYN providers, where half of the counties currently do not have  
4 an obstetrics provider; and

5 WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach ("City") has a track record of supporting  
6 women's rights and reproductive health. It has continually supported state and federal  
7 legislation protecting and advancing women's reproductive rights, access to healthcare  
8 and funds for preventative health care services; and

9 WHEREAS, with a ban on official travel to the State of Georgia and any  
10 other state which adopts similar heartbeat legislation and a review of all current and likely  
11 future contracts with businesses based in the State of Georgia to examine the feasibility  
12 of procuring such products and services elsewhere until the law is revoked, amended, or  
13 struck down, the City of Long Beach endeavors to stand in solidarity with the women of  
14 Georgia and in opposition to any state or local government which would adopt legislation  
15 unconstitutionally revoking a woman's right to choose; and

16 WHEREAS, the City will maintain and update a list of states to which the  
17 City Manager has suspended official travel due to anti-abortion heartbeat laws and make  
18 this list available on the City's website in order to state the City's opposition publicly and  
19 maintain transparency;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as  
21 follows:

22 Section 1. The City Council of the City of Long Beach denounces Georgia's  
23 Living Infants Fairness and Equality (LIFE) Act (HB 481) and Alabama's HB314,  
24 immediately suspends official travel to Georgia and Alabama and any other state which  
25 adopts similar fetal heartbeat legislation, and imposes financial sanctions until such time  
26 as the new law is revoked, amended, or struck down.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of July 16, 2019, by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: Pearce, Price, Supernaw, Mungo,  
Uranga, Austin, Richardson,  
Andrews.

Noes: Councilmembers: None.

Absent: Councilmembers: None.

  
City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY  
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Long Beach, CA 90802-4664