

Wilmington, Delaware
March 6, 2025

#0015

WHEREAS, the Wilmington City Council’s 2022-2025 Strategic Plan

Sponsor:

prioritizes a “Healthy Wilmington”, emphasizing residents’ quality of life, well-

**Council
Member
Owens**

being and access to quality healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 5 (SB 5), An Act Proposing an Amendment to

Co-Sponsors:

Article I of the Delaware Constitution Relating to the Right to Reproductive

**Council
Members
Darby
Oliver
Harlee
McCoy
Cabrera
Hackett
Willauer**

Freedom, codifies every individual’s right to make and effectuate reproductive

decisions regarding “all matters relating to pregnancy, contraception, sterilization,

abortion care, miscarriage management and infertility care”; and

WHEREAS, the American Pregnancy Association and the American College

of Obstetricians and Gynecologists estimate that 15-20% of all clinically-

recognized pregnancies end in miscarriage. These realities carry serious health

implications for individuals and families; and

WHEREAS the maternal mortality in Delaware averages 17 deaths per

100,000 live births. The Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium has

deduced that the rate of maternal morbidity and infant mortality in Delaware can

be reduced through better access to quality and comprehensive clinical resources

and public education initiatives. SB 5 will decrease actual and systemic barriers

inhibiting these public health initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the leading causes of infant mortality are issues related to

maternal complications and unintentional injuries. The infant mortality rate in

Delaware is significantly higher than the national infant mortality rate. The five-

year average infant mortality rate in the City of Wilmington is among the highest in the State; and

WHEREAS, The National Infertility Association estimates that 213,043 Delaware women have experienced physical difficulty in carrying pregnancy to live birth. Delaware's fertility care and preservation laws have allowed those diagnosed with infertility to access less invasive interventions to achieve successful pregnancy. SB 5 will further preserve access to these services; and

WHEREAS, various state-run clinics, federally qualified health centers, and private-public initiatives have succeeded in helping individuals prevent unplanned, high-risk pregnancies by increasing access to contraception, sterilization, counseling, as well as prenatal and postpartum care. SB 5 will allow Delawareans to continue accessing these services; and

WHEREAS, around 99% of reported abortions in Delaware are performed 16 weeks before the gestational period. Delaware's laws provide exceptions to the gestational limit to protect the life, physical, or mental health of the pregnant individual. SB 5 would enshrine the capacity for individuals and families to make these important decisions in the constitution of our State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this Legislative body urges the honorable members of the Delaware General Assembly to support Senate Bill No. 5 (SB 5), An Act Proposing an Amendment to Article 1 of the Delaware Constitution Relating to the Right to Reproductive Freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Legislative body expresses strong support for the proposed amendment to Article I of the Delaware Constitution, as outlined in SB 5, to ensure that every Delawarean has a fundamental right to reproductive freedom.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution expresses strong support from Wilmington City Council for the passage of Senate Bill No. 5 (SB 5), which seeks to amend Article I of the Delaware Constitution to codify the right to reproductive freedom. In alignment with the Wilmington City Council 2022-2025 Strategic Plan goal of promoting a “Healthy Wilmington,” SB 5 will safeguard Delawareans’ right to make and effectuate reproductive decisions while bolstering access to quality reproductive health services.