



## **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE**

*WHEREAS*, on June 24, 2022, the United States Supreme Court overturned its 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade* by ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that the United States Constitution does not provide for the right to an abortion; and

*WHEREAS* in the wake of this decision the right to an abortion will be determined by the individual states and the United States Congress;

*WHEREAS*, many states have or will soon impose severe restrictions or outright bans on abortion; and

*WHEREAS*, the restrictions on safe abortions will serve to deepen the health disparities that already exist in our country and in our state; and

*WHEREAS*, the United States already has the highest maternal mortality rates in the developed world and that such rates will only increase with restrictions on safe abortions;

*WHEREAS*, Jewish biblical and rabbinic sources teach us that personhood and human rights begin at birth -- not at conception; and

*WHEREAS*, the passing of laws on sectarian religious grounds to

restrict access to the complete spectrum of reproductive healthcare, including contraception and abortion, deprives the religious freedom of those who do not share the same beliefs in violation of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution; and

*WHEREAS*, we ground ourselves in *kavod ha'briyot* – the sacred obligation to provide medical care to those in need, as determined by licensed health care providers, their patients, and their patients' families – and we are concerned about individuals who cannot afford to travel long distances to secure reproductive health care outside of their home states.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Judea Reform Congregation affirms its support of a person's reproductive rights, including the right of a pregnant person to choose an abortion in accordance with Jewish law.**

Our support includes the following:

1. We support access to the entire spectrum of reproductive healthcare; and
2. We agree with efforts by others to legally assist those in need of abortion services to travel to a jurisdiction where abortion is legal and available; and
3. We encourage our members to stand up for religious liberty and to oppose efforts to limit its free expression; and
4. We authorize our Rabbis, in their reasonable discretion, to use their affiliation with Judea Reform Congregation in private or public meetings, writings and media to promote their Jewish perspective on this issue; and
5. Upon the prior approval, in each instance, of two or more of (i) the President, (ii) Vice President, and (iii) the Co-Chair of the Social

Action Committee, the synagogue may sponsor and/or co-sponsor events, rallies, discussions with legislators and similar programs, and may display or carry a banner identifying the synagogue; and.

6. Subject to the Board's right of prior approval, we authorize the Social Action Committee to distribute materials, host programs and partner in the name of JRC with local and national religious and non-profit organizations in support of this Resolution.

**Adopted by the Board of Trustees of Judea Reform  
Congregation on March 10, 2023.**