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## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 29

Offered January 19, 2018

*Commemorating the 45th anniversary of Roe v. Wade.*

Patron—Kory

WHEREAS, on January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled 7 - 2 in *Roe v. Wade* that the Fourteenth Amendment protects every woman's right to make her own personal medical decisions; and

WHEREAS, the landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade* ensures that abortion remains a safe, legal, and accessible procedure for a woman to consider, if and when she needs it; and

WHEREAS, it is a public health goal of the Commonwealth to enhance the health of all citizens, including women of all ages, and to strengthen individuals and families by encouraging and promoting access to comprehensive family planning services and ensuring that pregnancies are planned and healthy; and

WHEREAS, abortion is a deeply personal and complex decision for a woman, and decisions about whether to choose adoption, end a pregnancy, or raise a child must be left to a woman, her family, and her faith, with the counsel of her doctor or health care provider; and

WHEREAS, *Roe v. Wade* has protected the health and lives of women in the United States, and many Americans support safe, legal, and accessible abortion and oppose efforts to overturn *Roe v. Wade*; and

WHEREAS, the United States was founded on core principles such as liberty, personal privacy, and equality, which ensure that individuals are free to make their most intimate decisions without interference or discrimination; and

WHEREAS, prior to the decision in 1973, an estimated 1,200,000 women each year were forced to resort to illegal abortions, despite the risk of unsanitary conditions, incompetent treatment, infection, hemorrhage, disfigurement, and death; before *Roe v. Wade*, it is estimated that thousands of women died annually in the United States as a result of illegal abortions; and

WHEREAS, in countries where abortion remains illegal, the risk of maternal mortality is high; according to the World Health Organization, tens of thousands of the pregnancy-related deaths occurring around the world each year are associated with unsafe abortions; and

WHEREAS, the *Roe v. Wade* decision also expanded opportunities for women to participate equally in society; in 1992, in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the Supreme Court observed that "[t]he ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives"; and

WHEREAS, abortion should remain safe and legal; women should also have more meaningful access to family planning services that prevent unintended pregnancies, thereby reducing the need for abortion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the 45th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* hereby be commemorated; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation as an expression of the House of Delegates' appreciation for this ruling as an important milestone for women's health.

INTRODUCED

HR29