



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive
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June 29, 2022

The Honorable Claudia Balducci
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, allocate \$500,000 from Public Health – Seattle & King County to the Northwest Abortion Access Fund (Fund). Approval of this legislation will support the Fund's efforts to provide access to abortions for those who cannot otherwise access abortions.

The United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* overturned *Roe v. Wade*, which had provided a constitutional right to abortion across our country. Now, states can legally ban abortion, and Washington's neighboring states will have some of the most extreme bans in the nation. In fact, Idaho's law that makes abortion in almost all cases a felony will go into effect in less than a month. The Fund helps people pay for abortion care, travel to and from clinics, and helps ensure those travelling for an abortion have a safe place to stay. The Fund is expecting a dramatic increase in individuals needing these services in the aftermath of the Supreme Court's ruling. This allocation will help meet this need.

This work furthers the King County Strategic Plan goal of improving the health and well-being of all people. It also reflects the Strategic Plan's regionally collaborative guiding principle.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This urgent legislation will help ensure those who are in the most need will be able to access life-saving health care.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Anne Burkland, Government Affairs Officer, Public Health – Seattle & King County, at 206-477-7550.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

June 29, 2022

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Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Dennis Worsham, Interim Director, Public Health – Seattle & King County