By Supervisors Clancy and Martinez File No. 23-404

**A RESOLUTION**

Authorizing and directing the Department of Human Resources – Employee Benefit Division to identify a vendor and implement a contract to provide travel benefits to reimburse County employees traveling out of state to receive abortion services and authorizing an appropriation transfer of $30,000 from Agency 194-1945 – Appropriation for Contingencies to Agency 194 – 1950 – Employee and Retiree Fringe Benefits

WHEREAS, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Roe v. Wade* made access to safe and legal abortion a constitutional right in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in a nearly unprecedented taking of a settled right in the United States, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling on June 24, 2022, in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* which overturned *Roe v. Wade* allowing states to ban abortion; and

WHEREAS, a Marquette University poll taken in June of 2022 indicated that 59 percent of Wisconsin residents support access to abortion care in all or almost all cases; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has a 173-year-old criminal abortion law still in its statutes which effectively bans all abortions in the state by making it a felony to perform an abortion with no exceptions for rape, incest, or the health of the pregnant person; and

WHEREAS, denying residents access to abortion care has a disproportionate impact on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), low-income communities, people with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ+ community who are likely to have barriers to transportation and related expenses; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County adopted Chapter 108 of the Code of General Ordinances – Achieving Racial Equity and Health in April 2019 to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to reducing racial and health inequities; and

WHEREAS, File No. 22-1199 adopted by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors affirmed its support to protect abortion care as the right to choose and approved an advisory referendum on the Spring 2023 election ballot asking voters “Should Wisconsin Statute 940.04, which bans abortion at any stage of pregnancy without exception for rape, incest, or health of the patient, be repealed to allow legal access to abortion care?”; and

WHEREAS, persons seeking abortion care will need to travel from Wisconsin to a state that does not restrict individuals from making their own healthcare choices and allows access to safe and legal abortions; and

WHEREAS, the current benefits package provided to Milwaukee County employees does not provide reimbursement for expenses related to out-of-state travel required to access legalized abortion care; now, therefore,

 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Department of Human Resources – Employee Benefits Division is hereby directed and authorized to identify an appropriate vendor and implement a contract to provide reimbursement of travel expenses, up to $1,849, for transportation, accommodations, services, and related costs, incurred by Milwaukee County Employees traveling to other states to receive legal abortion care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance and the Office of the Comptroller to process an appropriation transfer of $30,000 from Agency 194-1945 – Appropriation for Contingencies to an appropriate account in Agency 194 – 1950 – Employee and Retiree Fringe Benefits to provide funding for the service.