



MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the City of Bloomington Common Council

From: John Hamilton, Mayor

CC: Stephen Lucas, Attorney, Common Council

Date: September 19, 2022

Re: Options for \$100K emergency fund to help residents with SB1 impacts

The Indiana General Assembly's decision to ban nearly all abortions in the state took effect September 15. As the Council and Administration indicated in Resolution 22-15, denying Hoosiers capable of pregnancy – including our fellow city and county residents – the right to bodily integrity and self-determination will impose tremendous physical, psychological, and economic harms. And, the law will impose those harms disproportionately on people of color, economically disadvantaged people, and all others who face discrimination in the health care system.

Resolution 22-15 states the Council's intent to "take such steps as may be appropriate to protect and advance the rights of individuals in Indiana who can become pregnant and to uphold all persons' rights to privacy, dignity and self-determination." One critical step the City can take is to support organizations responding to this reproductive health care crisis.

We propose that the City make available to such organizations \$100,000 in emergency grant funds in each of 2022 and 2023, and we are asking the county to do the same. We would like to do so arm-in-arm with City Council.

One approach would be for Council to approve appropriations in 2022 and 2023 to the Jack Hopkins Social Services Committee, for applicants who help meet needs associated with pregnancy and reproductive health. This approach:

- reflects Jack Hopkins' core mission of providing social services to City residents in need;
- allows direct participation by Council since Councilmembers form a majority of the Committee;
- uses established and familiar processes for soliciting and reviewing applications, which may make it easier to do a shortened cycle for these funds in 2022 and get them to residents in need as quickly as possible.

If Council prefers an alternative to the Jack Hopkins Committee, we will seek expeditious Council approval to use \$100,000 this year either from General Fund reserves or existing departmental budgets for an emergency grant program, likely based in either HAND or CFRD.

For now, we have also added to the 2023 proposed budget a General Fund additional appropriation of \$100,000 to the Jack Hopkins Committee.

We look forward to working closely with you, and quickly, to help meet the crisis in reproductive care and access in Indiana and our community. Please let us know at your earliest convenience how you would like to proceed.