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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**SAN FRANCISCO BOLSTERS PROTECTIONS FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
CLINICS WITH NEW LEGISLATION**

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed legislation introduced by District 2 Supervisor Catherine Stefani to enhance security at reproductive health clinics citywide. The ordinance extends protective buffer zones surrounding clinics to 100 feet and explicitly defines the impersonation of healthcare workers as harassment, further reinforcing San Francisco’s leadership in safeguarding reproductive rights and patient safety.

The passage of this legislation follows a weekend of intensified hostility at local clinics where agitators attempted to intimidate patients seeking care. Supervisor Stefani condemned these actions, stating, “Access to healthcare is a fundamental right, and San Francisco will not waiver in protecting it.”

“As we get closer to Inauguration Day and a second Trump administration, we will surely continue to see an increase in hostility and the potential for violence that it foments,” said **Kimberly Ellis, the Director for the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women**. “But thanks to Supervisor Stefani’s legislation, San Francisco has now codified stiffer penalties for harassing attempts to violate our rights to bodily autonomy, including the right to access abortion care services.”

Since the Supreme Court’s 2022 decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, protests targeting reproductive health clinics in San Francisco have dramatically escalated. Planned Parenthood Northern California reported over 100 security incidents since April 2023, including amplified sound disruptions, confrontations outside clinics, and impersonation of staff and volunteers to mislead patients.

The ordinance enhances buffer zones, mandates annual police training to enforce protections, and promotes collaboration between law enforcement and healthcare providers to prevent harassment.

"The SFPD is committed to making sure people in our city are safe," said **San Francisco Police Department Chief Scott**. "This legislation will help to ensure patients and healthcare workers

are secure and not subjected to intimidation and harassment as they receive and provide care at reproductive health facilities.”

The ordinance builds on federal and state protections, such as President Biden’s Executive Order on Protecting Access to Reproductive Healthcare Services and California’s Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act. It also directly addresses documented cases of healthcare worker impersonation, expanding the legal definition of harassment to cover such behaviors.

“I would like to thank Supervisor Stefani for her leadership and being a champion for reproductive rights in our city,” said **District Attorney Brooke Jenkins**. “Strengthening security measures at reproductive health clinics will protect patients and medical professionals. My office will prosecute any individuals who violate our laws and come here to harm those seeking or providing medical care at reproductive health clinics.”

Obstructing reproductive healthcare not only delays critical services but also violates constitutional privacy rights and puts public safety at risk. By standardizing buffer zones at 100 feet, the ordinance strengthens enforcement and guarantees consistent protection for clinics citywide.

"We applaud the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for their swift and decisive action in passing this critical ordinance. Strengthening protections for patients and providers at reproductive health centers is essential as we face escalating threats and harassment from anti-reproductive freedom protesters. This ordinance sends a powerful message that San Francisco stands firmly in defense of reproductive freedom. We are deeply grateful to Supervisor Stefani and our allies across the city for their unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety of our patients and staff." said **Gilda Gonzales, CEO of Planned Parenthood Northern California**.

As demand for services grows due to restrictive abortion laws in other states, this legislation underscores San Francisco’s unwavering commitment to reproductive freedom. Supervisor Stefani concluded, “To anyone attempting to bring their intimidation tactics here: San Francisco will meet you with the full force of our laws. We will not back down, and we will not allow the erosion of healthcare access in our city.”

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