WHEREAS, Missouri recognizes that reproductive freedom, including access to safe and legal abortion, is vital to a woman’s health, economic security, and ability to participate equally in society; and

WHEREAS, Missouri recognizes the anniversary of the United States Supreme Court decision, Roe v. Wade, decided on January 22, 1973, affirming that the United States Constitution safeguards a woman’s right to make her own medical decisions without the interference of politicians; and

WHEREAS, a woman’s right to access safe, legal abortion without burdensome restrictions imposed by a state is at stake in the pending United States Supreme Court case, Whole Woman’s Health, et al. v. Cole, et al.; and

WHEREAS, since the 2010 midterm elections, states have adopted a staggering 288 abortion restrictions; and

WHEREAS, relentless state and federal attacks on the right to access abortion continue across the country and in this state; and

WHEREAS, for decades, abortion providers and patients have been subjected to intimidation, threats, and violence; and

WHEREAS, since 1977:
Nearly 7,000 violent acts against abortion providers have been reported, including bombings, acts of arson, death threats, acts of kidnapping, and assaults;

More than 190,000 acts of disruption against abortion providers have been reported, including bomb threats and harassing calls;

Since 1993, there have been 11 murders and numerous attempted murders of individuals associated with abortion care; most recently on November 27, 2015, an attack by a gunman at a Planned Parenthood health center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in which 3 people were killed and 9 people were injured; and

WHEREAS, efforts to restrict access to abortion, including extreme and demonizing rhetoric, contribute to a hostile climate that leads to violence, threats, and harassment of health care providers and patients; and

WHEREAS, one in three women will need an abortion in her lifetime, and as such, safe, legal, and accessible abortion is an essential component of comprehensive reproductive health care; and

WHEREAS, abortion is one of the safest medical procedures performed in the United States with over a 99% safety record; and

WHEREAS, elected officials must stand up to protect access to comprehensive health care in this state:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby:

(1) Denounce violence toward abortion providers and their patients;

(2) Denounce efforts to undermine Roe by eliminating access to abortion in Missouri and throughout the country;
(3) Affirm that all people have the right to access reproductive health care services without fear of violence, intimidation, or harassment; and

(4) Affirm the right to access health care without interference in this state, including safe and legal abortion.