

THE ROE ACT

Members of the Massachusetts Legislature:

We, the undersigned mayors from cities across the Commonwealth, are writing to express our strong and urgent support for H.3320 and S.1209, or the *ROE Act*.

For years, opponents of safe, legal abortion have fought to turn back the clock on reproductive rights and access to abortion care: stacking the federal courts with anti-abortion judges; passing unconstitutional legislation; spreading inflammatory misinformation; imposing arbitrary restrictions; and waging one legal battle after another.

With the U.S. Supreme Court poised to further erode or eliminate *Roe v. Wade*, Massachusetts must fortify its own commitment to reproductive rights and modernize its own laws so every person can decide for themselves if and when to become a parent. That is why, as mayors concerned with the well-being of our residents, we support the ROE Act and declare that abortion is health care, plain and simple. In the face of national threats, it's time our laws reflect our Commonwealth's commitment to reproductive freedom and health care access.

Even in Massachusetts, the right to safe, legal abortion does not translate into equitable access for all people. The ROE Act will ensure that our laws reflect our values, treat pregnant people with compassion when they discover late in pregnancy that the fetus cannot survive, and enable young people to access care without being forced to plead their case in court. In a state known for high-quality health care access, no person should have to delay care, share personal details of their life with a judge, or cross state lines in order to access abortion.

Many residents of our cities have long faced structural barriers to care that have created serious health disparities. When all people have the support and care they need, they are empowered to build healthy, fulfilling lives. As mayors, it is our responsibility to do everything in our power to promote the health, safety and economic security of every person in our communities. That means ensuring that all residents have equitable access to a full range of reproductive health care services, including safe, legal abortion.

We are speaking out because we want Massachusetts to blaze a clear path forward for health care access, women's rights, and reproductive freedom.

We respectfully urge you to advance the ROE Act.

Sincerely,

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Martin J. Walsh

Mayor of Boston

Daniel Rivera

Mayor of Lawrence

Dr. Yvonne M. Spicer

Mayor of Framingham

David J. Narkewicz

Mayor of Northampton

Stephanie Burke

Mayor of Medford

Marc McGovern

Mayor of Cambridge

Donna Holaday

Mayor of Newburyport

Gail Infurna

Mayor of Melrose

Joseph Curtatone

Mayor of Somerville

Nicole LaChapelle

Mayor of Easthampton

Joseph M. Petty

Mayor of Worcester

Alex Morse

Mayor of Holyoke

Ruthanne Fuller

Mayor of Newton

Kimberly Driscoll

Mayor of Salem

Jon Mitchell

Mayor of New Bedford

Michael Cahill

Mayor of Beverly

Gary Christenson

Mayor of Malden