

IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

WHEREAS, International Women’s Day is observed around the world and provides an opportunity to recognize and reflect on the progress made to advance women’s equality, to celebrate the gains made by women in our society and to reflect on the challenges and barriers that women continue to face; and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled with a 7-2 decision that a woman has a right to a safe and legal abortion; and

WHEREAS, the current Supreme Court ruling appears to only command a 5-4 majority leaving the rights of women across the nation hanging in the balance; and

WHEREAS, more than half of women today still live in states considered hostile towards the right to choose; and

WHEREAS, 2013 represented the second highest number ever for enacted restrictions in a single year; 70 state-level restrictions on the right to choose were passed including limiting women’s access to medication, insurance coverage, and new requirements on clinics and providers; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the 41st anniversary of the Supreme Court’s landmark Roe v. Wade decision, several state-enacted restriction laws have been challenged in state and federal court thereby continuously risking a woman’s right to choose; and

WHEREAS, access to a comprehensive range of birth control methods and family planning services also impacts women’s economic security; studies estimate that women who are denied this access are three times more likely to fall into poverty than women who can; and

WHEREAS, one in three American women or an estimated 42 million women live in or at the brink of poverty (defined as \$47,000 for a family of four) and nearly two-thirds of all minimum wage workers are women; Alameda County single mothers, regardless of race, experience higher levels of poverty (25%); and

WHEREAS, women’s median pay continues to remain on average 77 cents of every \$1.00 earned by men since the passage of the Equal Pay Act in 1963 resulting in an estimated \$11,084 annual wage gap; African American women on average earn only 64 cents and for Latinas it is just 55 cents in comparison to men’s dollar; and

WHEREAS, this Board recognizes the importance of addressing the social, health, economic, and political barriers still facing women and girls in Alameda County while also celebrating their achievements and the progress that have been made in support of women’s equality;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, will recognize March 8, 2014 as “*International Women’s Day*” and will continue to commit to working collaboratively across communities to secure the rights and full potential of women and create lasting solutions to social, economic and political barriers facing women, including defending women’s right to choose.

KEITH CARSON, President
Supervisor, Fifth District

March 11, 2014

SCOTT HAGGERTY, Vice President
Supervisor, First District

RICHARD VALLE
Supervisor, Second District

WILMA CHAN
Supervisor, Third District

NATE MILEY
Supervisor, Fourth District