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Sample Testimony

Good Evening Council Members. My name is _____ and I am a resident of district _____, I have lived in this town for _____ years, and I am here to oppose the effort to ban abortion in this city.

The ordinance before you is an extreme proposal that, regardless of your position on abortion, no one should support. The ordinance would not only ban abortion within city limits, including no exceptions for rape and incest, and declare organizations who support women's health to be criminal, it also encourages family members to sue each other and purposefully misleads the people of this town about their constitutionally protected rights.

This direct violation of people's constitutional rights will open our town up to potential costly litigation that we cannot afford. I want my tax dollars to go towards [fill in something personal here], and not toward defending lawsuits.

Furthermore, banning abortion in here is not just unconstitutional, it is also just plain wrong. Banning abortion does not make it magically go away. All banning abortion does is force people to find, often unsafe, ways to perform the procedure themselves. For example, in 1965, 8 years prior to *Roe*, deaths caused by illegal abortion made up 17% of all deaths attributed to pregnancy and childbirth that year.ⁱ Moreover, women who don't have access to abortion are more economically dependentⁱⁱ and are more likely to stay in abusive relationships.ⁱⁱⁱ

This ordinance is just a waste of time and taxpayer dollars brought to our town by someone who doesn't even live in our community. I urge Council to stop outside groups from playing politics and inviting controversy to our town and to focus on the issues that we elected you to handle.

This ordinance is just too extreme for our city and I ask you to vote no.

ⁱ Gold, *Lessons from Before Roe: Will Past Be Prologue?*

ⁱⁱ Kate Bahn et al. , *Linking Reproductive Health Care Access to Labor Market Opportunities for Women*, CTR. FOR AM. PROGRESS (2017), available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2017/11/21/442653/linking-reproductive-health-care-access-labor-market-opportunities-women/> (finding that “women living in states with a better reproductive health care climate—including insurance coverage of contraceptive drugs and services; expanded Medicaid eligibility for family-planning services; insurance coverage of infertility treatments; and the availability of state-supported public funding for medically necessary abortions—have higher earnings and face less occupational segregation compared with women living in states that have more limited reproductive health care access”).

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iii Foster DG et al, Socioeconomic outcomes of women who receive and women who are denied wanted abortions in the United States, *AJPH*, 2018, 108(3):407-413, doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2017.304247; Sarah C.M. Roberts et al., *Risk of Violence from the Man Involved in Pregnancy After Receiving or Being Denied an Abortion*, 12 *BMC MED.* 1 (2014), available at <https://bmcmedicine.biomedcentral.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s12916-014-0144-z>.