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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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September 25, 2020

Honorable Robert A. DeLeo
Speaker of the House
State House Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Speaker DeLeo,

I write respectfully in support of H.3320, *An Act removing obstacles and expanding access to women's reproductive health*, also known as the ROE Act. Should you bring this bill to the House floor for a vote this session, I will vote in favor.

Even in Massachusetts, the constitutional right to abortion does not always translate into access to care. Our current laws have created unnecessary and sometimes insurmountable barriers to abortion for young people and those in need of abortion later in pregnancy due to lethal fetal anomalies. Mandatory court involvement for young people interferes with timely health care access and best medical practices. These outdated barriers are racist and discriminatory, disproportionately burdening people of color, people with low incomes, and LGBTQ+ people.

Massachusetts must remove obstacles to care and ensure equitable access to reproductive health care, free from political interference. The ROE Act will help people access safe, legal abortion by removing needless, burdensome provisions that delay and deny care. It will ensure all people can make decisions for themselves without the state dictating when, how, or why.

With Justice Ginsburg's death, reproductive freedom hangs in the balance nationally. It is important that we make sure our state law in Massachusetts is secure, with clear standards that ensure safe care for all. We must take swift and immediate action to guarantee equitable access to legal abortion care in Massachusetts and ensure that all women and pregnant people have access to the reproductive health care they need.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope to see this bill come to the floor for a vote soon.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Hecht". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jonathan Hecht
State Representative
29th Middlesex District

Cc: Chair Claire Cronin, Joint Committee on the Judiciary