

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, in 1909, California passed the nation's third eugenic sterilization law through which between 1909 and 1979 more than 20,000 Californians were sterilized; and

WHEREAS, California's eugenics laws authorized medical superintendents in State homes and hospitals to perform "asexualization" (vasectomies for men and salpingectomies for women) on people identified as "afflicted with mental disease which may have been inherited and is likely to be transmitted to descendants, the various grades of feeble-mindedness, those suffering from "perversion or marked departures from normal activity," or disease of a syphilitic nature," and

WHEREAS, the State maintained 12 State homes and hospitals, with very little oversight, that housed thousands of patients that were committed without proper consent during an era when reformers believed that sterilization was an important instrument of public health protection that would reduce the number of "defectives" in society, result in cost savings for welfare programs, and only allow "fit" people to become parents; and

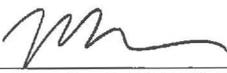
WHEREAS, while the law did not target specific racial or ethnic groups, in practice, labels of "mental deficiency" and "feeble-mindedness" were applied disproportionately to racial and ethnic minorities, people with actual or perceived disabilities, low-income people, and women; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2003, Governor Gray Davis and Attorney General Bill Lockyer issued public apologies and in June 2003, the State Senate passed a resolution expressing "profound regret over the State's past role in the eugenics movement;" and

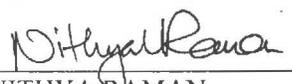
WHEREAS, the State recognizes that further involuntary and systematic sterilization abuse occurred to Californians, including residents of the City of Los Angeles, between 1965-1975 where at least 240 women, mostly of Mexican origin, who delivered babies at the LA County University of Southern California Medical Center were subjected to nonconsensual postpartum tubal ligations and between 2006-2010 where at least 144 people imprisoned in California's women's prisons were sterilized without proper authorization or consent while giving birth; and

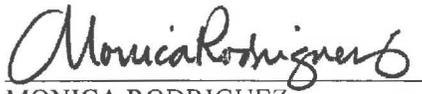
WHEREAS, on February 18, 2021, AB 1007 (Carrillo) was introduced for the purpose of providing compensation to survivors of State-sponsored sterilization;

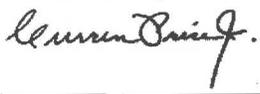
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in the 2021-2022 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1007 (Carrillo) to establish the Forced or Involuntary Sterilization Compensation Program to compensate survivors of State-sponsored sterilizations conducted pursuant to California eugenics laws that existed between 1909 and 1979, and to survivors of coercive sterilization performed in prisons after 1979.

PRESENTED BY 
MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District


NURY MARTINEZ
Councilwoman, 6th District


NITHYA RAMAN
Councilwoman, 4th District


MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY 

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MAY 18 2021 