



San Diego City Attorney
Mara W. Elliott



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Contact: Andrew Sharp at

asharp@sandiego.gov or (619) 533-5896

City Attorney Mara W. Elliott Proposes First Major Update to Health Care Clinic Access Law this Century *Asks the City Council to take up the issue in March to mark Women's History Month*

San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott announced this morning she plans to bring forward the first major revision to San Diego's healthcare clinic access laws in nearly three decades. She asked the Council's Public Safety Committee to take up the item in March to acknowledge Women's History Month.

“San Diego's healthcare clinic access laws are outdated,” said Elliott. **“It places the added burden on those seeking medical care to confront those standing in their way. The law imperils access, is misguided, and must be fixed.”**

Elliott, the first woman and first Latina elected to serve as San Diego City Attorney, said Californians should be proud of the leadership role the state has played since the Supreme Court overturned nearly 50 years of protections under *Roe v. Wade* when it wrongly decided *Dobbs* last year. She directed legal staff to review clinic protections in San Diego after *Dobbs* to ensure local clinics can continue to serve patients without interruption.

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1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1620, San Diego, California 92101-4188 (619) 236-6220

“Californians have led the nation in protecting reproductive rights,” said Elliott. **“San Diegans expect their local leaders to follow suit by ensuring our local laws safeguard access to healthcare. It’s time to bring our laws into the 21st century.”**

The City Attorney thanked Senior Chief Deputy City Attorney Heather Ferbert and Deputy City Attorney Julie Rau for their work on the new legislation. Ferbert and Rau represent San Diego on the State Attorney General’s California Reproductive Rights Task Force, which the California Department of Justice convened in response to the *Dobbs* decision in 2022.

“California has become a beacon of freedom for women across the country since the *Dobbs* decision,” said Senior Chief DCA Ferbert. “We need to ensure that anyone attempting to access healthcare can do so free from harassment and abuse.”

DCA Rau agreed, “I cannot think of a better way for San Diego to honor Women’s History Month than by strengthening a woman’s right to access critical health care services. These commonsense amendments to existing law will remove antiquated and damaging barriers that directly impact the lives of women and their families.”

Increased protection for women is one of a series of issues City Attorney Elliott identified as central to her final year in office.

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