RESOLUTION NO. 08-60

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING STATE PROPOSITION 4 ON THE NOVEMBER 4, 2008, AN INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH A WAITING PERIOD AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION BEFORE TERMINATION OF A MINOR'S PREGNANCY

WHEREAS, Proposition 4 is an initiative effort to change the California Constitution to prohibit abortion for minors until 48 hours after a physician notifies the minor's parent or legal guardian; and

WHERAS, mandatory notification laws may sound good but in the real world they put teenagers in real, physical danger; and

WHEREAS, parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers lives and want their daughters to go to them if they become pregnant, but not all teenagers live in homes where communication is possible; and

WHEREAS, a scared, pregnant teen who cannot go to her parents can feel trapped and desperate, and instead of seeking the counseling and safe medical care she needs, she may choose to run away, not get the care she needs, seek an unsafe and life-risking illegal abortion or even contemplate suicide; and

WHEREAS, going before a court to reveal the most intimate details of her life to an unfamiliar judge in an impersonal courthouse is an unlikely avenue for a desperate, scared and pregnant teenager; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 4 is opposed by the California Teachers Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics – California District, the California Medical Association, the California Association of Family Physicians, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Albany City Council hereby opposes Proposition 4 on the November 4, 2008 statewide ballot.

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Robert S. Lieber, Mayor