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4 **A RESOLUTION**

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6 Authorizing and directing the Department of Human Resources – Employee Benefit
7 Division to identify a vendor and implement a contract to provide travel benefits to
8 reimburse County employees traveling out of state to receive abortion services and
9 authorizing an appropriation transfer of \$30,000 from Agency 194-1945 – Appropriation
10 for Contingencies to Agency 194 – 1950 – Employee and Retiree Fringe Benefits
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13 WHEREAS, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Roe v. Wade* made access to
14 safe and legal abortion a constitutional right in the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, in a nearly unprecedented taking of a settled right in the United
16 States, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling on June 24, 2022, in *Dobbs v. Jackson*
17 *Women’s Health Organization* which overturned *Roe v. Wade* allowing states to ban
18 abortion; and

19 WHEREAS, a Marquette University poll taken in June of 2022 indicated that 59
20 percent of Wisconsin residents support access to abortion care in all or almost all
21 cases; and

22 WHEREAS, Wisconsin has a 173-year-old criminal abortion law still in its
23 statutes which effectively bans all abortions in the state by making it a felony to perform
24 an abortion with no exceptions for rape, incest, or the health of the pregnant person;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, denying residents access to abortion care has a disproportionate
27 impact on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), low-income communities,
28 people with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ+ community who are likely to have
29 barriers to transportation and related expenses; and

30 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County adopted Chapter 108 of the Code of General
31 Ordinances – Achieving Racial Equity and Health in April 2019 to demonstrate its
32 unwavering commitment to reducing racial and health inequities; and
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34 WHEREAS, File No. 22-1199 adopted by the Milwaukee County Board of
35 Supervisors affirmed its support to protect abortion care as the right to choose and
36 approved an advisory referendum on the Spring 2023 election ballot asking voters
37 “Should Wisconsin Statute 940.04, which bans abortion at any stage of pregnancy
38 without exception for rape, incest, or health of the patient, be repealed to allow legal
39 access to abortion care?”; and

40 WHEREAS, persons seeking abortion care will need to travel from Wisconsin to
41 a state that does not restrict individuals from making their own healthcare choices and
42 allows access to safe and legal abortions; and

43 WHEREAS, the current benefits package provided to Milwaukee County
44 employees does not provide reimbursement for expenses related to out-of-state travel
45 required to access legalized abortion care; and

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47 WHEREAS, the Committee on Personnel (Personnel), at its meeting of April 12,
48 2023, laid over File No. 23-404 for one meeting (vote 4-0); and

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50 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance (Finance), at its meeting of April 13,
51 2023, laid over File No. 23-404 for one meeting (vote 6-1); and

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53 WHEREAS, Personnel, at its meeting of May 9, 2023, recommended
54 **REJECTION** of File No. 23-404 (vote 3-1); and

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56 WHEREAS, Finance, at its meeting of May 18, 2023, recommended
57 **REJECTION** of File No. 23-404 due to a failed motion to recommend adoption
58 (vote 3-4); now, therefore,

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60 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Department of Human Resources –
61 Employee Benefits Division is hereby directed and authorized to identify an appropriate
62 vendor and implement a contract to provide reimbursement of travel expenses, up to
63 \$1,849, for transportation, accommodations, services, and related costs, incurred by
64 Milwaukee County Employees traveling to other states to receive legal abortion care;
65 and

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
67 hereby authorizes the Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance and the Office of the
68 Comptroller to process an appropriation transfer of \$30,000 from Agency 194-1945 –
69 Appropriation for Contingencies to an appropriate account in Agency 194 – 1950 –
70 Employee and Retiree Fringe Benefits to provide funding for the service.

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73 05/18/2023
74 S:\Committees\2023\May\FINANCE\Resolutions\23-404 Clancy & Martinez - \$30k Appropriation Transfer for Out-of-
75 State Abortion Services Travel - no edits.docx