

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Wednesday, August 3, 2022 Contact: Pete Shipley, 614.965.0203 Email: pjshipley@columbus.gov

Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein Says Kansas Vote Affirms Broad Support for Abortion Access Nationwide, Including in Ohio

Says protecting access to reproductive freedom is a uniting issue for people across the political spectrum

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today issued a statement as voters in Kansas voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to reject a ballot measure that would have allowed lawmakers to ban abortion access in the state. City Attorney Klein's statement is below:

"Tuesday's vote in Kansas affirmed what we already know to be true—that Americans support access to abortion, and any efforts to restrict or criminalize care will be met with fierce opposition across the political spectrum, including here in Ohio where the majority of Ohioans support reproductive freedom.

"And it's no surprise. Abortion is healthcare. And for years it has been accepted as standard medical care for the majority of women both globally and here in the United States. In Ohio, our constitution says access to healthcare can't be criminalized or penalized, and any reasonable and practicable interpretation of healthcare under Ohio's Constitution includes abortion and reproductive care.

"When you take away the politically-charged rhetoric and the influence of personal beliefs, you're left with the facts—that abortion is healthcare and that any efforts to criminalize or penalize healthcare access violate Ohio's Constitution. And if Ohio's extreme legislature moves to strip Ohioans of their reproductive freedom or if the courts choose to reject an internationally recognized medical practice, like abortion, as healthcare under Ohio law, then we should let the voters decide."