

Despite Anti-Choice Efforts Abortion Remains Legal In Georgia

Leaders and members of the Georgia Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice Coalition vow to continue fighting Kemp's abortion ban.

Today, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp signed HB481, one of the nation's most restrictive abortion bans, into law. This law – which effectively bans all abortion procedures after 6 weeks, before most people even know they are pregnant – will not go into effect until January 2020. Until then, legal abortion services will continue to be available in Georgia as they have been: up until 22 weeks from a person's last period.

We are resolute in our opposition to this bill. Not only is it blatantly unconstitutional but it directly contradicts best medical and public health practices and will cost Georgians millions of dollars in lost revenue and court expenses – money that would be better used to decrease maternal and infant mortality rates and expand access to healthcare. Restrictions like HB481 disproportionately and intersectionally affect the health and autonomy of communities like ours – those who are Black, brown, young, LGBTQI, immigrant, or striving to make ends meet. That's why we will fight this blatant attack on our rights and agency, both in the courts and in the streets.

We support our partners at the ACLU of Georgia in their forthcoming legal challenge. We're confident that the courts will enjoin or strike down this overly restrictive ban, just as they've done with every other similar measure put forth by the anti-choice movement's coordinated strategy to criminalize abortion.

Governor Kemp, Lt. Governor Duncan, Speaker Ralston, Representative Setzler, Senator Unterman, and other anti-choice and anti-healthcare legislators may believe this is the end, but we are committed to continuing the fight to actualize affordable access to comprehensive reproductive health services for all Georgians.

Join us Saturday, June 1st at 10:00am, as we kick off our summer of action with a people's town hall. We invite the community to participate and discuss the state of abortion access in Georgia and our continued work for reproductive justice. We look forward to this conversation and advancing reproductive justice for all Georgians this summer, in 2020, and beyond.

Access Reproductive Care (ARC) – Southeast
American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia
Feminist Women's Health Center
NARAL Pro-Choice Georgia
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) Georgia Chapter
Planned Parenthood Southeast
SisterLove, Inc.
SisterSong
SPARK Reproductive Justice Now!, Inc.
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
Women Engaged