



**Prepared Remarks of Sean J. Young,
Legal Director of the ACLU of Georgia
Press Conference on the filing of SisterSong v Kemp
Friday, June 28, 2019
Federal District Courthouse
Atlanta, Georgia**

My name is Sean Young, and I am the Legal Director of the ACLU of Georgia.

Today, we filed a lawsuit challenging Georgia's ban on abortion, also known as HB 481. This lawsuit is being filed on behalf of SisterSong, an organization that advocates for reproductive justice in marginalized communities, and medical providers such as Feminist Women's Health Center and Planned Parenthood, whose mission is to provide women and others with the best medical care that they need. The legal team includes the ACLU, the Center for Reproductive Rights, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Our lawsuit asks the court to block HB 481 before it goes into effect in January 2020. HB 481 is blatantly unconstitutional under nearly 50 years

of Supreme Court precedent, and every federal court that has heard a challenge to such a ban has struck it down. The Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution has long protected our cherished right to privacy and liberty, and HB 481 threatens these basic American freedoms in violation of the constitution.

This case is also about the freedom of people to make their own healthcare decisions based on the advice of their doctors. As the lawsuit explains, HB 481 will have a devastating impact on the healthcare of women throughout Georgia.

- First, HB 481 forces women to continue their pregnancies against their will, which can expose many of them to serious health risks – such as heart attacks, stroke, or kidney damage – health risks that they will be powerless to address.
- Second, HB 481 threatens OB/GYNs and other doctors with criminal penalties for providing certain standard-of-care treatments even to those who want to carry their pregnancies to term, if any kind of treatment poses any risk that an embryo will be lost.
- And third, interfering with standard-of-care treatment and driving doctors out of Georgia will be particularly devastating for low-income

Georgians, Georgians of color, and rural Georgians, who are already least able to access medical care, and who have the least resources to navigate the law's cruelties.

We are asking the courts to strike down HB 481, to ensure that everyone can have the freedom to decide for themselves when to start or expand their families, and the freedom to make their own healthcare decisions free from governmental interference. I'm happy to answer any questions about the lawsuit at the end of this conference. Thank you.