



To: Interested Parties  
From: NARAL Pro-Choice Georgia  
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## Brian Kemp

### New: Kemp Prioritized Extreme Anti-Choice Bills During His First Few Months As Governor

#### Kemp Supported The Six-Week Ban In Georgia, Which Would Ban Abortion Before Many Women Know They Are Pregnant

**Kemp supported a six-week abortion ban: “I campaigned on signing the toughest abortion bill in the country... and this is the toughest one we’ve got in the Legislature now.”** Kemp continued, “There will no doubt be a legal battle. And we’re ready for a fight... I have no ill will for people who oppose this, and I understand it. But this is about protecting life and we’re willing to fight for it.” Kemp also said, “I value life and I proudly support this legislation, which protects the right of the unborn at the heartbeat.” This bill, HB 481, would ban abortion at six weeks, before many women even know they're pregnant, and would require victims of rape or incest to file police reports in order to access care. The bill also defines personhood in Georgia law at "any stage of development who is carried in the womb," will require the counting of any pregnancy after six weeks in the state's population counts, and would require the payment of child support during a pregnancy. The bill criminalizes women and doctors and will subject women to investigation for experiencing pregnancy loss. [WSB-TV, [3/7/19](#); The Associated Press, [3/8/19](#); NARAL Government Relations analysis, 4/9/19]

**Kemp celebrated the House and Senate passage of the six-week ban, saying, “The legislature’s bold action reaffirms our priorities and who we are as a state.”** After the Georgia House passed HB 481, a six-week abortion ban, Kemp released the following statement: “Georgia values life. We stand up for the innocent and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. The legislature’s bold action reaffirms our priorities and who we are as a state. I thank these lawmakers for their leadership and applaud their undeniable courage. Our efforts to protect life do not end here. We must work to ease the adoption process, find loving homes for those in our foster care system, and protect the aging and vulnerable. Together, we will ensure that all Georgians are safe and have the opportunity to live, grow, learn, and prosper.” Following the Senate passage, Kemp released a statement: “Governor Brian P. Kemp commends Lieutenant Governor Geoff Duncan and the Senate for supporting this important legislation. ‘Today, the State Senate affirmed Georgia’s commitment to life and the rights of the innocent unborn. I applaud the members who supported the heartbeat bill’s passage for protecting the vulnerable and giving a voice to those who cannot yet speak for themselves,’ said Governor Kemp. ‘I look forward to working with the House to ensure this legislation’s final passage in the coming days.’ [Governor Brian Kemp press release, [3/29/19](#); Governor Brian Kemp press release, [3/22/19](#)]

## Kemp Also Promoted A “Trigger Law” To Ban Abortion In Georgia

**Kemp supported a “trigger law” to ban abortion in Georgia if the U.S. Supreme Court gutted or overturned *Roe v. Wade*.** Kemp released a press statement following the introduction of a trigger ban in the Georgia General Assembly: “Today, Governor Kemp’s Floor Leaders, Representatives Jodi Lott (R – Evans) and Dominic LaRiccia (R – Douglas), introduced pro-life legislation requiring the Georgia General Assembly to consider full protection of innocent life if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court or an amendment to the U.S. Constitution is passed to restore authority to states to outlaw abortion. ‘Our state values life - from conception to natural death,’ said Governor Kemp. ‘This legislation reflects our calling to protect the unborn and our desire to ensure opportunity for all. In a time where lawmakers across the country justify late-term abortions and infanticide, we will champion life. I encourage all Georgians to stand with us as we protect the innocent and most vulnerable in our state.’” This bill, HB 546, would have banned abortion and required doctors to wait until a woman's life is in such danger that the abortion was required to save her life before intervening. [Governor Brian Kemp press release, [2/28/19](#); WSB-TV, [2/28/19](#); NARAL Government Relations analysis, 4/9/19]

**Virginia Galloway of the Faith and Freedom Coalition of Georgia praised Kemp for promoting the trigger ban: “It’s nice to have a governor that’s doing something, for a change, on pro-life issues.”** Galloway also expressed her preference for six week bans before Kemp focused his attention to that bill. Faith and Freedom Coalition of Georgia is an anti-choice advocacy group affiliated with the national Faith and Freedom Coalition, led by Kemp-ally Ralph Reed. [Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [2/28/19](#); Faith and Freedom Coalition, [3/8/18](#); Twitter, [10/17/18](#)]

**National anti-choice leader Ralph Reed was a staunch Brian Kemp supporter in the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial election.** Ralph Reed, head of the Faith and Freedom Coalition, recorded a video asking people to vote early for Brian Kemp for Governor of Georgia. Kemp shared the video on his Twitter. [Twitter, [10/17/18](#)]

## Previous Research: Kemp Has A Staunchly Anti-Choice, Anti-Healthcare Background

### Abortion

**Kemp believed abortion should be illegal with exceptions only “to prevent the death” of a woman, not in cases of rape or incest.** Kemp filled out the following answers in a Georgia Life Alliance questionnaire. Asked “Do you believe abortion should be illegal?” Kemp checked “Yes.” Asked to choose which exceptions he would support to an abortion ban, Kemp only chose “to prevent the death of the mother,” not selecting the options for rape or incest exceptions. He made no mention of any exceptions to protect women who may suffer severe, long-term health problems if forced to carry a pregnancy to term. [Georgia Life Alliance 2018 questionnaire, accessed [10/4/18](#)]

**Georgia Right to Life endorsed Kemp in past elections due to his opposition to rape and incest exceptions to abortion bans.** Georgia Right to Life endorsed Kemp for Secretary of State in 2010 because he “affirmed support for a Personhood Amendment to the Georgia constitution and opposition to abortion for any reason other than to save both mother and child.” Starting in 2009, Georgia Right to Life only endorsed candidates who would sign the GRTL PAC “Personhood Affirmation,” which stated that the candidate supported a Human Life Amendment to the Georgia Constitution, which would ban abortion with no exceptions for rape, incest, or the health of the woman. Georgia Right to Life praised Kemp as one of their “NO exceptions’ candidates elected in Georgia” writing, “GRTL ONLY endorses candidates that hold to a NO exceptions position on abortion in cases of rape and incest.” [Christian Newswire, [11/4/10](#), via Nexis, Georgia Right to Life, accessed [10/4/18](#), Georgia Right to Life, accessed [10/4/18](#), Georgia Right to Life, [5/11/14](#)]

**Kemp vowed to “sign the toughest abortion laws in the country” as Governor.** Kemp wrote on Facebook, “I back Mississippi’s ban on abortions after fifteen weeks and vow to sign the toughest abortion laws in the country as your next governor. **If abortion rights activists want to sue me...bring it!** I’ll fight for life at the Capitol and in the courtroom.” [Facebook, [3/19/18](#); Kemp for Governor, accessed [10/4/18](#); Atlanta Journal-Constitution, [3/20/18](#)]

**Kemp: “I support a ‘Heartbeat Bill’ that outlaws abortions after six weeks.”** In a statement Kemp said, “In fact, I am the only candidate for governor to signal support for the bill that was just passed in Iowa. The left calls it radical but it’s just common sense to me. As the father of three, I remember listening to the heartbeats of my girls. We were knitted together in our mother’s womb and protecting His craftsmanship at six weeks is certainly worth the inevitable courtroom battle.” [Kemp for Governor, accessed [10/4/18](#)]

**Kemp wanted to undo the *Roe* and *Doe* Supreme Court decisions and outlined his plan to overturn *Roe*:** “[W]e advance pro-life legislation, battle in the courtroom, and wait on the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.” Kemp said in a statement, “I will fight to advance the pro-life movement and defend the unborn at every turn. We must always do the right thing – even in non-election years.” In the Georgia Life Alliance questionnaire, Kemp answered “yes” to the question “would you advocate for changing the *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions so that elected legislatures may once again protect unborn children by limiting or prohibiting abortion?” [Kemp for Governor, accessed [10/4/18](#); Georgia Life Alliance 2018 questionnaire, accessed [10/4/18](#)]

**Kemp identified as “unapologetically pro-life” and said he “believes that life begins at conception.”** [Kemp for Governor, accessed [10/4/18](#)]

**Kemp pledged to review the Georgia Code to define an “unborn child” as “a person.”** In a statement Kemp said, “Being pro-life is more than just protecting embryos. That’s why my administration will review the entire Georgia Code to ensure that all life – from conception to natural death is protected and treated equally under the law. By recognizing that an unborn child is a person, we will make it abundantly clear that Georgia values all people - regardless of age, race, mental status, or state or health.” [Kemp for Governor, accessed [10/4/18](#)]

**Kemp pledged to “double down” on laws targeting abortion clinics.** In a statement Kemp said, “Finally, as we advance pro-life legislation, battle in the courtroom, and wait on the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, our state must double down on the application of pro-life laws that currently exist.

Through the Department of Community Health, we can ensure that the letter – and spirit – of the law is being enforced at clinics across the state. As governor, I will make enforcement a priority.” [Kemp for Governor, accessed [10/4/18](#)]

**Kemp supported the most extreme abortion bans across the country, including Iowa’s 6-week ban and Mississippi’s 15-week ban.** Kemp said in a statement, “In fact, I am the only candidate for governor to signal support for the bill that was just passed in Iowa.” He also wrote on Facebook: “I back Mississippi’s ban on abortions after fifteen weeks and vow to sign the toughest abortion laws in the country as your next governor.” [Kemp for Governor, accessed [10/4/18](#); Facebook, [3/19/18](#)]

**Kemp supported Georgia’s 20-week abortion ban.** Kemp wrote on Facebook, “As a pro-life Georgian, I applaud the Supreme Court’s decision upholding the ban on abortions after twenty weeks. This is a huge victory for the pro-life movement and underscores our state’s commitment to protecting the rights of the unborn.” Kemp also indicated his support for Georgia’s 20-week ban in the Georgia Life Alliance questionnaire. [Facebook, [7/19/18](#); Georgia Life Alliance 2018 questionnaire, accessed [10/4/18](#)]

**Anti-choice groups Family Policy Alliance and Georgia Life Alliance endorsed Kemp for Governor in 2018.** Kemp filled out a questionnaire attesting to his extreme positions on abortion for the Georgia Life Alliance. [Kemp for Governor, accessed [10/4/18](#); Georgia Life Alliance 2018 questionnaire, accessed [10/4/18](#)]

**Kemp aimed to make Georgia more hostile to abortion rights as Governor.** Kemp tweeted, “As governor, I will significantly move the needle on pro-life legislation in our state and fight against the left to make sure these laws stand. I’ve taken on Obama, Abrams, & groups funded by George Soros before and I am ready to defeat them again.” Kemp posted on Facebook: “If elected, Abrams will work to repeal the pro-life legislation I backed in the Senate. As governor, I will make Georgia the safest state in the nation for the unborn.” [Twitter, [7/3/18](#); Facebook, [3/29/18](#)]

**Kemp opposed embryonic stem cell research.** Kemp responded “Yes” to the question “Would you vote for measures to protect living human embryos from being used for experiments that would harm or kill them, including embryonic stem cell research regardless of the method used to create the embryo?” in the Georgia Life Alliance questionnaire. [Georgia Life Alliance 2018 questionnaire, accessed [10/4/18](#)]

## Affordable Care Act And Medicaid

**Kemp called the Affordable Care Act “an absolute disaster,” “unconstitutional” and “a complete failure” and called for its replacement.** Kemp wrote on Facebook, “Obamacare is an absolute disaster and it needs to be repealed immediately. We need a free market replacement that puts Georgia patients – not government bureaucrats or special interests – first.” Georgia Health News asked Kemp if the Affordable Care Act was unconstitutional, to which he replied, “Obamacare is unconstitutional, but worse, it has been a complete failure. I fully support AG Carr’s efforts and know that the real solutions to these pressing issues are found in our state capitals, not in Washington, D.C.” [Facebook, [8/14/17](#); Georgia Health News, [9/5/18](#)]

**“ABRAMS:** The ACA is absolutely constitutional, as affirmed many years ago by the Supreme Court of the United States. I firmly stand against any action seeking to declare the ACA unconstitutional.” [Georgia Health News, [9/5/18](#)]

**Kemp supported a lawsuit to overturn the Affordable Care Act.** [The Telegraph, [9/14/18](#)]

**Kemp opposed Medicaid expansion.** When asked about expanding Medicaid, Kemp told Georgia Health News, “Medicaid costs too much and fails to deliver for hardworking Georgians. Taking money away from public safety and education to expand up a failed government program will only make things worse. Stacey Abrams sees Medicaid expansion as a step towards a single-payer health care system that puts bureaucrats — not doctors — in charge of the patient’s medical decisions. Her radical plan will literally bankrupt our state while making it harder for hard-working Georgians to receive the care they need.” [The Telegraph, [9/14/18](#); Georgia Health News, [9/5/18](#)]

**“ABRAMS:** Expanding Medicaid is one of my top priorities. 33 states, led by governors across the political spectrum, have taken the only justifiable approach to health care and expanded Medicaid already. But not Georgia. Our Republican state leaders refuse to act, needlessly turning down federal dollars while Georgia sends money to Washington. Refusing to expand Medicaid is an irresponsible act that denies coverage for hundreds of thousands of vulnerable Georgians who need health coverage, damaging our health infrastructure and our rural health system to its core.” [Georgia Health News, [9/14/18](#)]

## Sexual Assault and #MeToo

**The Democratic Party of Georgia has released several ads attacking Kemp for his “mishandling of sexual assault claims” relating to Massage Envy.** The ads mention that the former Massage Envy owner Patrick Greco hosted a fundraiser for Kemp. [All On Georgia, [9/12/18](#)]