

For Immediate Release:

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STATE HOUSE AND SENATE LAWMAKERS DROP REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM ACT TO ENSHRINE FUNDAMENTAL ABORTION PROTECTIONS

Announcement comes just after what would have been the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade

ATLANTA - On Tuesday, January 24 at 1:00 pm, State Senator Sally Harrell (SD40), State Representative Shea Roberts (HD52), and colleagues will file legislation to repeal HB 481 and a myriad of medically-unnecessary and politically-motivated abortion restrictions enacted by anti-abortion state lawmakers since 2005. Entitled the Reproductive Freedom Act (RFA), both House and Senate versions affirm that every individual who becomes pregnant has the right to choose to continue their pregnancy or have an abortion.

The Reproductive Freedom Act, the first of its kind in the state of Georgia, will prevent individuals from being criminalized for pregnancy loss and protect them from potential aggressive state or local prosecutors. Additionally, the RFA extends access to abortion care for those in rural areas by expanding the group of trained healthcare professionals who can provide abortion care, and by allowing more insurance plans to cover abortion care — like ACA plans, state employee plans, and Medicaid.

Less than one year before the 50th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the 1973 decision and Georgia lawmakers worked to reinstate HB 481, a near-total abortion ban that took effect in July. The result of these decisions is that Georgians are now even more likely to experience delayed care and lack of access, leading to increased health risks and economic harm. [Abortion providers, advocates, researchers, and supportive lawmakers gathered on Saturday, January 21](#) before what would have been the 50th anniversary of *Roe* to discuss the need to expand access in the state beyond the inequalities that persisted under *Roe*, and expand access until everyone in Georgia can live, thrive, and raise families in healthy communities.

“We are fighting for reproductive freedom beyond Roe,” says **Roula AbiSamra, a member of the campaign for a Reproductive Freedom Act and state campaign director for the Amplify GA Collaborative**, a group of reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations and allies who helped draft the RFA. *“Roe was never enough to ensure everyone can get the care they need. We must think bigger and our solutions must be bolder than restoring us to the bare minimum of reproductive access.”*

**The press conference will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 1:00 pm
on the South stairs of the Georgia State Capitol.**

*For a media kit including links to all referenced research, go to tinyurl.com/BeyondRoepresskit.
For more information, please contact Grace Akan at 678-522-7552 or grace@graceandgritlab.com.*

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Amplify Georgia is a Southern collaborative of reproductive justice organizations and allies working to protect and expand abortion access across Georgia through state and local advocacy. Amplify Georgia convenes and supports the Reproductive Freedom Act Campaign. Leading campaign members include Access Reproductive Care - Southeast (ARC-Southeast) (co-chair), SPARK Reproductive Justice Now (co-chair), Feminist Women's Health Center (FWHC), NARAL Pro-Choice Georgia, Women Engaged, SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, and YWCA of Greater Atlanta.