

A RESOLUTION ADDING TO THE 2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AN URGING OF MEMBERS OF THE GEORGIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE TO REPEAL THE LIVING INFANTS AND FAIRNESS EQUALITY (LIFE) ACT (HOUSE BILL 481); AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, in 2019, members of the Georgia General Assembly passed House Bill 481 (“HB 481”) which prohibits abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected, typically about six weeks into pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of HB 481 began in 2022 after the United States Supreme Court overturned its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion; and

WHEREAS, since the enforcement of HB 481, pregnant women have been denied medical care in Georgia during miscarriages because of uncertainty among doctors over whether they could be prosecuted under the law; and

WHEREAS, in at least one highly publicized case, a pregnant Georgia woman died after seeking an emergency abortion that she was denied and in another case a pregnant brain-dead woman was kept on life support without her family’s consent because of her pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, HB 481 makes no exceptions for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest; and

WHEREAS, HB 481 undermines women’s autonomy and their right to make decisions about their own reproductive health by denying them the ability to make a choice about whether to proceed with a pregnancy, which most women at six (6) weeks’ gestation are unlikely to be aware of; and

WHEREAS, HB 481’s limitations undermines women’s ability to undertake screening tests for fetal abnormalities, many of which cannot be detected until later in a pregnancy, which denies them the opportunity to make informed medical decisions; and

1 **WHEREAS**, there is evidence that HB 481 has particularly profound impact on
2 vulnerable and marginalized populations; and

3 **WHEREAS**, HB 481 may increase the likelihood of women seeking to self-
4 manage their abortion rather than seeking medical assistance, resulting in unsafe
5 abortion procedures that can lead to abortion-related mortality; and

6 **WHEREAS**, eliminating legal access to abortion has been empirically proven to
7 dramatically increase the risk of death, injury and infertility, especially in marginalized and
8 vulnerable populations; and

9 **WHEREAS**, according to the National Institute of Reproductive Health, one in four
10 women in the United States will have an abortion by the age of 45; and

11 **WHEREAS**, making abortion legal, safe and accessible does not appreciable
12 increase abortion demand but rather reduces clandestine and unsafe abortion procedure
13 and results in legal and safe ones; and

14 **WHEREAS**, HB 481 has the effect of leaving tens of thousands of future children
15 unnecessarily disadvantaged and living in poverty; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners supports a woman's right
17 to choose and believes that the right to privacy should protect doctors, patients and all
18 those involved with medical treatment of a pregnant woman from criminal prosecution
19 related to decisions made within the doctor-patient relationship; and whereas, the Board
20 of Commissioners has a responsibility to protect its residents from any violation of their
21 human rights and criminalization of their reproductive rights;

22 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners finds that urging the
23 members of Georgia General Assembly to repeal HB 481 would best serve the interests

1 of the citizens and taxpayers of Fulton County and the rest of the State of Georgia.

2 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fulton County Board of
3 Commissioners hereby adds to its 2026 legislative agenda, an urging of the members of
4 the Georgia General Assembly to repeal House Bill 481 to protect the interests of the
5 citizens and taxpayers of Fulton County and the rest of the State of Georgia.

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Clerk to the Commission is hereby directed
7 to provide an executed copy of this Resolution to each member of the Georgia General
8 Assembly and to the Association County Commissioners of Georgia.

9 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall become effective upon its
10 adoption, and that all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict with this Resolution
11 are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

12 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County,
13 Georgia, this 17th day of December 2025.

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15 **FULTON COUNTY**
16 **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

17
18 **Sponsored by:**

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21 _____
22 Robert L. Pitts, Chairman
23 (At Large)

24 **ATTEST:**

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27 _____
28 Tonya R. Grier,
29 Clerk to the Commission
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1 **APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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5 Y. Soo Jo, County Attorney