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SISTERSONG, SPARK, AND SISTERLOVE

DEFEAT SB 529

Atlanta, GA - April 30, 2010: SB 529, the "OB/GYN Criminalization and Racial Discrimination Act," died in the Rules Committee of the House on the last day of Georgia's legislative session. We won in Georgia, but this may be coming to your state next.

After more than three days of attempting to negotiate with the ultra conservative right to life lobby, the Speaker of the House David Ralston, was unable to convince them to support a more reasonable bill. The hard-line Republicans and moderate Republicans could not unite on the bill. This allowed the Democrats to filibuster. Essentially, it was the splintering that caused the bill's turnaround in lacking unity.

As the three women of color led reproductive justice organizations in Georgia, [SisterSong](#), [SPARK](#) Reproductive Justice NOW!, and [SisterLove](#), Inc. are thrilled that this bill never made it out of the House Rules Committee. After more than three months of intense lobbying, SisterSong, SPARK, and SisterLove, in coordination with allies, Feminist Women's Health Center (GA) and Planned Parenthood Southeast, were able to bombard the Speaker's office with calls, emails, and faxes highlighting concerns with the bill posed for women of color and our doctors.

"We truly raised the voices of women of color, and black women in particular, as the session ended, with national support from Civil Rights leaders and clergy", stated Heidi Williamson, National Policy Coordinator for SisterSong. "Now we must do the work of empowering and educating our community on reproductive justice issues."

With virtually every "Endangered Species" billboard down throughout the state, which were utilized as a tool to build support for the legislation, and the legislation now dead, we will turn our attention to the African American women in Georgia and nationally to prepare for future battles against our bodies and freedoms.

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The mission of SisterSong is to amplify and strengthen the collective voices of Indigenous women and women of color to ensure reproductive justice through securing human rights. We fight equally for the right to bear – or not to bear – a child, along with the subsequent and necessary enabling conditions to realize these rights. We implement our work within the structure of three national impact goals: 1) Support: To create spaces for Indigenous women and women of color to strategize on developing a national movement of women of color for reproductive justice, 2) Mentor: To build the capacity of Indigenous women and women of color organizations and to increase their visibility, sustainability, effectiveness, and influence, and 3) Advocate: To lift the voices and perspectives of Indigenous women and women of color into the mainstream reproductive rights movement, into communities of color, and into public policies.