

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Senator Marcus Stands Up Against Undemocratic and Dangerous Abortion Ban in North Carolina



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Senator Marcus Stands Up Against Undemocratic and Dangerous Abortion Ban in North Carolina

Raleigh, NC – After an unprecedented day in the NC Senate, Sen. Natasha Marcus (SD-41) took to social media to say "Yesterday, my Senate Democratic colleagues and I fought as hard as we could against the dangerous abortion ban, SB20. We used every rule, motion, appeal and allotted minute to speak that we had available. In response, Republicans changed the rules to limit our voices, interrupted us, attempted to censor our remarks, rejected our motions and appeals, and frequently left the chamber while we shared our remarks. We started at 10 am and finished after 5 pm. As expected, we didn't have the votes to defeat SB20. But we went to the mat for reproductive freedom today. I'm proud to serve with these articulate and dedicated public servants who respect and trust women."

The majority party leaders wrote the bill in secret meetings and took unprecedented steps to limit public comment and bipartisan input or compromise, by revealing the bill late Tuesday night, incorporating no Democratic input, skipping the normal committee hearings, blocking all efforts to amend the bill, limiting the time for debate, and forcing a vote less than 48 hours after the bill was introduced.

Every Democratic Senator spoke out against the dangerous bill. Sen. Marcus's remarks addressed the harm the bill will do to pregnant women and the availability of maternal care providers, saying "This law will force many pregnant North Carolinians to become healthcare refugees, who must go to other states to get the care they need, if they can afford to do so. This bill will also drive medical providers out of our state due to the ways it ties their hands, makes them susceptible to litigation, and makes it impossible for them to practice consistent with medical standards. That means all pregnant patients here will have a harder time finding a doctor to care for them because of this bill."

Sen. Marcus also discussed the seriousness of forcing women and girls to carry a pregnancy and give birth against their will, saying ""In a planned, wanted pregnancy, women accept all the risks and challenges of pregnancy and childbirth. But we should remember what you're forcing a woman to go through when you compel her to continue a pregnancy and give birth against her will. I don't think any of the people in this room would welcome the government having the ability to change your life and take over your body in all the intimate and impactful ways that pregnancy and childbirth do."

Given the unprecedented and rushed process by which Republicans passed this bill, Sen. Marcus asked "Why are you in such a rush to pass this bill and so adamant about holding us to only 10 minutes time to speak? Are you worried that if the public sees what you're doing, if the business community has time to voice their concerns, or if more medical organizations put their opposition in writing, that some of your members will change their vote? Why can't the bill stand up to the normal course of debate and committees, with public comment?"

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