

Handel laughed at the idea of giving equal rights to gay people, voted to lock up doctors who perform abortions and even supports Georgia's rigid and extreme abortion ban which could force women who receive abortions to face the death penalty.

2010: Handel Laughed When Asked Whether She Supported Marriage Equality. “LGBT rights are a laughing matter for Karen Handel. The Republican winner of the hotly contested congressional special election in Georgia sniggered when asked by WXIA, Atlanta's NBC affiliate, about supporting same-sex marriage in 2010, when she was seeking the state's Republican gubernatorial nomination. ‘Why is marriage between one man and one woman? Are you serious?’ Handel said, laughing at the question from reporter Doug Richards. Just beforehand, the conservative politician affirmed that she was ‘absolutely’ against same-sex marriage as well as civil unions.” [Advocate, [6/21/17](#)]

Handel Voted For A 20-Week Abortion Ban Imposing Criminal Penalties On Doctors, With Exceptions For Rape And Incest Only If It Had Been Reported To Law Enforcement. In October 2017, Handel voted for: “Passage of the bill that would prohibit abortions in cases where the probable age of the fetus is 20 weeks or later and would impose criminal penalties on doctors who violate the ban. It would provide exceptions for cases in which the woman's life is in danger as well as for pregnancies that are a result of rape for pregnancies that are a result of rape against an adult woman, if the woman received counseling or medical treatment for the rape at least 48 hours prior to the abortion. An exception would be provided for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest against a minor if the rape or incest had been previously reported to law enforcement or another government agency authorized to act on reports of child abuse. The bill would require a second doctor trained in neonatal resuscitation to be present for abortions where the fetus has the ‘potential’ to survive outside the womb.” The bill passed, 237-189. [HR 36, [Vote #549](#), 10/3/17; CQ, [10/3/17](#)]

HR 36, The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act Called For A Criminal Penalty For Anyone Who Performed An Abortion To Be Fined Or “Imprisoned” For Not More Than 5 Years, Or Both. “(a) Unlawful Conduct.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it shall be unlawful for any person to perform an abortion or attempt to do so, unless in conformity with the requirements set forth in subsection (b). (b) Requirements for Abortions.— [...] (c) Criminal Penalty.—Whoever violates subsection (a) shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.” [HR 36, [Vote #549](#), 10/3/17; CQ, [10/3/17](#)]

Handel Expressed Her Support For Abortion “Once A Baby In The Womb Can Feel Pain” In Response To A Report That A Federal Judge Struck Down Georgia’s Anti-Abortion Law. “It’s troubling to see the left celebrating the human rights abuse of abortion on demand. I’m proud of my leadership to protect the unborn — like prohibiting abortion once a baby in the womb can feel pain.” [Karen Handel via Twitter, [7/13/20](#)]

Handel: “I’m Proud Of My Leadership To Protect The Unborn – Like Prohibiting Abortion Once A Baby In The Womb Can Feel Pain.” “It’s troubling to see the left celebrating the human rights abuse of abortion on demand. I’m proud of my leadership to protect the unborn — like prohibiting abortion once a baby in the womb can feel pain.” [Karen Handel via Twitter, [7/13/20](#)]

Handel’s Tweet Linked To An AJC Article Reporting On That A Federal Judge Struck Down Georgia’s Anti-Abortion Law. [Karen Handel via Twitter, [7/13/20](#); AJC, [7/13/20](#)]

NOTE: The link used in Handel’s tweet directs to a 404 page. The article listed above contains the active link.

Under The Georgia Abortion Ban, Women Who Got Illegal Abortions Could Be Subjected To Life Imprisonment And The Death Penalty. “On Tuesday, Georgia Republican Gov. Brian Kemp signed a ‘fetal heartbeat’ bill that seeks to outlaw abortion after about six weeks. The measure, HB 481, is the most extreme abortion ban in the country—not just because it would impose severe limitations on women’s reproductive rights, but also because it would subject women who get illegal abortions to life imprisonment and the death penalty.” [Slate, [5/7/19](#)]