



1237 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30310-1731  
Tel: 404.756.2680  
Fax: 404.756.2684  
Email: [info@SisterSong.net](mailto:info@SisterSong.net)  
Website: [www.SisterSong.net](http://www.SisterSong.net)

## **Georgia Bill Requires Doctors to Offer Pregnant Women HIV Tests**

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**Published in *Collective Voices*, Vol. 2 Issue 7, Spring 2007**

According to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, the Georgia House Health and Human Services Committee approved House Bill 429 with a unanimous vote, which require doctors to offer pregnant women an HIV test. The Department of Human Resources' Division of Public Health reported that between 20 to 30 infants are born HIV-positive annually in the state, with treatment costing approximately \$600,000 per infant. Rep. Sharon Cooper (R), the bill's sponsor, stated that many Georgia physicians don't test their pregnant patients because they don't believe the women are at a high risk of transmission. The bill requires doctors to refer their HIV-positive pregnant patients to counseling and treatment assistance. Women who refuse testing will have their objection recorded on their medical record. The *Journal-Constitution* also reported that a number of committee members expressed concerns about patient confidentiality and doctor liability, yet, numerous physician organizations, including American Academy of Pediatrics, supported the bill.