

Kamala Harris speech in Atlanta, Georgia

| September 20, 2024

Auto-transcribed by <https://aliceapp.ai> on Sunday, 29 Sep 2024.

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Words	2,616
Duration	00:23:05
Recorded on	Unknown date
Uploaded on	2024-09-29 17:57:36 UTC
At	Unknown location
Using	Uploaded to aliceapp.ai

Speakers:

Kamala Harris - 100.0%

Notes:

Summary by ChatGPT

- Heroism in Healthcare: Praised Dr. Reddick for standing against restrictive laws and advocating for patient dignity.

- Fight for Freedom: Emphasized that the upcoming election is crucial for the future and women's rights, particularly regarding reproductive health.

- Consequences of Abortion Bans: Discussed the severe impacts of Trump-era abortion bans, including personal stories of women denied care, resulting in preventable deaths.

- Call for Solidarity: Encouraged support for women affected by these laws, highlighting the moral obligation to trust women to make decisions about their bodies.

- Urgency for Change: Urged voters to recognize the stakes of the election, asserting that a national abortion ban could be imposed if Trump is re-elected.

Kamala Harris 00:00:00
Can we please hear for Doctor Reddick? Please?

Kamala Harris 00:00:08
Please have a seat. Everyone. Please have a seat. It's so good to be back in Atlanta. Thank you all.

Kamala Harris 00:00:14
Thank you. You know, I just want to say. Thank you. Um, I just. I want to say about Doctor Reddick.

Kamala Harris 00:00:22
You know, some of you may have seen, um, I did an event last night with Oprah Winfrey, and that it highlighted so many tragic stories, but it also highlighted so many important issues, which is why everyone has taken time out of your busy lives to be here this afternoon. And it highlighted the importance of a Doctor Reddick, because the courage, Doctor Reddick, that you are showing in the face of these arcane and immoral laws, to stand so publicly and talk about your commitment to your oath and to the health and well being of people who need to be seen and treated with dignity is so extraordinary. And I do believe in moments of crisis, the world has a way of revealing the heroes among us. And I would say, Doctor Reddick, you are one of them. Thank you very much.

Kamala Harris 00:01:26
Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. And thank you to all of the elected and community leaders who have joined us today. Thank you.

Kamala Harris 00:01:36
Thank you, everybody. Everybody who is here. So, Georgia, this election right here is a fight for the future. It is a fight for the future, and it is a fight for freedom. For freedom.

Kamala Harris 00:01:51
And we know in America, freedom is not to be given. It is not to be bestowed. It is ours by

right. It is ours by right.

Kamala Harris

00:02:08

And that, uh, includes the fundamental freedom of a woman to be able to make decisions about her own body and not have her government telling her what to do.

Kamala Harris

00:02:24

Yes, we must trust women.

Kamala Harris

00:02:29

And we all know how we got here. When Donald Trump was president, he hand selected three members of the United States Supreme Court, the court of Thurgood and RBG, with the intention that they would overturn the protections of Roe v. Wade. And, as he intended, they did. And now, more than 20 states have Trump abortion bans, extremists that have passed laws that criminalize health care providers, doctors and nurses, and punish women.

Kamala Harris

00:03:04

In two states of those states, they provide for prison for life, prison for life, for healthcare providers for simply providing reproductive care, the care they so earnestly and rightly believe must be delivered. All Trump abortion bans. And think about this. Many of these bans make no exception, even for rape and incest. Now, many of you know, I started my career as a prosecutor, specializing in crimes of violence against women and children.

Kamala Harris

00:03:41

What many of you may not know is why. So when I was in high school, my best friend, I learned was being molested by her stepfather. And I said to her, look, you gotta come and stay with us. I called my mother. She said, of course she does.

Kamala Harris

00:03:58

And she came and she stayed with us. And so I made the decision early in my life that I wanted to do the work that was about protecting the most vulnerable among us and doing the work that was about giving them dignity in the process. And so, well, uh, thank everybody here for being here, standing in solidarity around the importance of that. And so I say to you then, from that experience and from the work that I've done, the idea that someone who survives a crime of violence to their body, a violation of their body, uh, would not have the right to make a decision about what happens to their body next. That's immoral.

That's immoral. And let us agree. And I, uh, know we do. One does not have to abandon their faith or deeply held beliefs to agree. The government should not be telling her what to do if she chooses.

Kamala Harris

00:05:06

If she chooses, she will talk with her pastor, her priest, her rabbi, her imam, but it should not be the government or Donald Trump telling her what to do with her body.

Kamala Harris

00:05:22

And think about it. The stories that doctor Reddick shares with us, the stories we heard last night, the stories we've been hearing for two years. One in three women in America lives in a state with a Trump abortion ban. This includes Georgia and every state in the south except Virginia. Think about that.

Kamala Harris

00:05:46

When you also combine that with what we know has been longstanding neglect around an issue like maternal mortality. Think about that when you compound that with what has been longstanding neglect of women in communities with a lack of the adequate resources they need for healthcare, prenatal, during their pregnancy, postpartum. Think about that. And these hypocrites wanna start talking about this is in the best interest of women and children. Well, where you been?

Kamala Harris

00:06:21

Where you been? When it comes to taking care of the women and children of America, where you been?

Kamala Harris

00:06:34

How dare they? How dare they?

Kamala Harris

00:06:40

Come on.

Kamala Harris

00:06:45

And we understand the impact of these bans and the horrific reality that women and families, their husbands, their partners, their parents, their children, are facing as a consequence. Every single day since Roe was overturned, I have met women who were refused care during a miscarriage, wanted to have a child suffering a miscarriage. I met a woman. A woman. I've actually met several who were turned away from the emergency room, one of early stages after the Dobbs decision came down.

Told me with tears she was with her husband. About how only when she developed sepsis did she receive emergency care. Only when she developed sepsis did she receive emergency care. And now we know that at least two women, and those are only the stories we know here in the state of Georgia, died. Died because of a Trump abortion ban.

Kamala Harris

00:07:55

One. And we heard about her story last night.

Kamala Harris

00:08:01

A vibrant 28 year old young woman. She was ambitious. You know, I talked with her mother and her sisters about her, and they described such an extraordinary life of a person. She was excited. She was working hard.

Kamala Harris

00:08:21

She was a medical assistant. She was going to nursing school, raising her six year old son. She was really proud that she had finally worked so hard that she gained the independence. Her family was telling me that she was able to get an apartment in a gated community with a pool for her son to play in. She was so proud.

Kamala Harris

00:08:44

And she was headed to nursing school.

Kamala Harris

00:08:48

And her name, and we will speak her name. Amber Nicole Thurmande. Amber Nicole Thurman. Amber Nicole Thurman. That's right.

Kamala Harris

00:09:03

And she had her future all planned out. And it was her plan. You know, let's understand. Just take pause on that for a moment. She had her plan, what she wanted to do for her son, for herself, for their future.

Kamala Harris

00:09:23

And so when she discovered that she was pregnant, she decided she wanted to have an abortion. But because of the Trump abortion ban here in Georgia, she was forced to travel out of state to receive the health care that she needed. But when she returned to Georgia, she needed additional care, so she went to a hospital. But you see, under the Trump abortion ban, her doctors could have faced up to a decade in prison for providing Amber the care she needed.

Understand what a law like this means. Doctors have to wait until the patient is at death door before they take action. You know, on the other side of my, you know, the other folks, Trump and his running mate, and they'll talk about, oh, well, yeah, but I, you know, I do believe in the exception to save the mother's life. Okay. All right, let's break that down, shall we?

Kamala Harris

00:10:38

Let's break that down. Let's break that down. So we're saying that we're gonna create public policy that says that a doctor, a health care provider, will only kick in to give the care that somebody needs if they're about to die. Think about what we are saying right now. You're saying that good policy, logical policy, moral policy, humane policy, is about saying that a healthcare provider will only start providing that care when you're about to die.

Kamala Harris

00:11:28

And so Amber waited 20 hours, 20 hours, excruciating hours, until finally she was in enough physical distress that her doctors thought they would be okay to treat her, but it was too late. She died of sepsis.

Kamala Harris

00:12:04

And her last words to her mother, which her mother, as you know, tears up and cries every time she speaks it, last words to her mother, promise me you'll take care of my son.

Kamala Harris

00:12:25

So I met last night, and I spent time with Amber's mother and her sisters, and they spoke about Amber. A daughter, a sister, a mother, um, with the deep love that you can imagine and how terribly they miss her. And their pain is heartbreaking. It's heartbreaking. Amber's mother, Jeanette, told me that the word preventable is over and over again in her head when she learned about how her child died, the world.

Kamala Harris

00:13:07

Preventable. She can't stop thinking about the word that they spoke to her. It was preventable because, you see, medical experts have now determined that Ambers death was preventable. And through the pain and the grief of her mother, who courageously told her story, I promised her, as she has asked, that we will make sure Amber is not just remembered as a statistic, that she will not just be remembered as a statistic, so that people will know was a mother and a daughter and a sister, and that she was loved and that she should be alive today. And that she should be alive today.

Kamala Harris

00:14:07

And many of us remember. There's so many leaders here from two years ago when the Dobbs decision came down.

Kamala Harris

00:14:17

We m new this could happen.

Kamala Harris

00:14:25

There is a word, preventable, and there is another word, predictable.

Kamala Harris

00:14:35

And the reality is, for every story we hear of the suffering under Trump abortion bans, there are so many other stories we are not hearing. But where suffering is happening every day in our country. An untold number of people suffering. Women who are also being made to feel as though they did something wrong. The judgment factor here is outrageous.

Kamala Harris

00:15:08

Being made as though, to feel as though they are criminals, as though they are alone.

Kamala Harris

00:15:17

So to those women, to those families, I say, on behalf of what I believe, we all say, we see you, and you are not alone. And we are all here. Standing with you. Standing with you. You are not alone.

Kamala Harris

00:15:40

You are not alone.

Kamala Harris

00:15:55

So, Georgia, and we will not be silent. And we will not be silent. But this is a health care crisis. This is a health care crisis. And Donald Trump is the architect of this crisis.

Kamala Harris

00:16:10

He brags about overturning Roe v. Wade in his own words, quote, I did it, and I'm proud to have done it. He says he is proud, proud that women are dying, proud that doctors and nurses could be thrown in prison for administering care. Proud that young women today have fewer rights than their mothers and grandmothers. How dare he?

Kamala Harris

00:16:42

How dare he? And in our debate last week, well, that was fun, but. And I know, I know everyone here paid attention to the words, though. The words, right.

Kamala Harris

00:17:14

I'm trying to get another debate. We'll see. But in our debate last week, remember when he said everyone wanted Roe v. Wade to be overturned?

Kamala Harris

00:17:30

Well, exactly. I don't know who everyone is either, because women have been arrested and charged for miscarriages. They didn't want that. I was speaking with a physician who is here, who has, in her professional experience, been administering care to girls.

Kamala Harris

00:17:54

And what we know is that twelve and 13 year old survivors of assault, uh, are being forced to carry a pregnancy to terminal. They didn't want this.

Kamala Harris

00:18:06

And couples just trying to grow their family being cut off, uh, in the middle of IVF treatments. They didn't want this. No. And on that last point, you probably saw this week, for the second time, Republicans in the United States Senate blocked a bill that would protect access to IVF treatment. Now, consider among the multitude of ironies, the fact that on the one hand, these extremists want to tell women they don't have the freedom to end an unwanted pregnancy.

Kamala Harris

00:18:39

And on the other hand, these extremists are telling women and their partners they don't have the freedom to start a family.

Kamala Harris

00:18:48

Okay?

Kamala Harris

00:18:51

And they want to restrict access, contraception as well. And now Donald Trump says that he would personally cast his vote in Florida, which is where he now lives, to support their extreme abortion ban, just like the one that is here in Georgia.

Kamala Harris

00:19:20

Well, that's a whole different policy discussion that we'll have for another day. Um, but let's

understand, if he is elected again as president, Donald Trump will go further. But we know what we're up against, and we must speak of the stakes. We must remind, everybody here knows, but we got to remind our friends, our neighbors, our coworkers. The stakes are so high.

Kamala Harris

00:19:53

Cause if he is elected again, I am certain he will sign a national abortion ban, which would outlaw abortion in every single state. And he would create a national anti abortion coordinator look at Project 2025 and force states to report on women's miscarriages and abortions. It's right there. I can't believe they put that Project 2025 in writing. They put it.

Kamala Harris

00:20:23

They literally put it in writing. They bound it, they handed it out.

Kamala Harris

00:20:31

I mean, they are simply out of their minds.

Kamala Harris

00:20:41

And it's clear that they just don't trust women. Well, we trust women. We trust women.

Kamala Harris

00:20:54

And like Doctor Reddick said, when Congress passes a bill to restore reproductive freedoms, as president of the United States, I will so proudly sign it, make it into law. I will so proudly sign it into law. Proudly sign it into law.

Kamala Harris

00:21:16

So 46 days to go. And let us remember that momentum on this and so many issues. Momentum is on our side. Let's remember, since Roe was overturned, every time reproductive freedom has been on the ballot, from Kansas to California to Kentucky, in Michigan, Montana, Vermont and Ohio, the people of America have voted for freedom. The people of America have voted for freedom.

Kamala Harris

00:21:57

And not just by a little, but by overwhelming margins from so called red states, the so called blue states. Providing and making clear also this is not a partisan issue. This is not a partisan issue. And it is proving that, uh, the voice of the people has been heard and will be heard again. And will be heard again.

So 46 days to go in probably the most consequential election of our lifetimes. And with that, then today I ask Georgia, are you ready to make your voices heard? Do we trust women? Do we believe in reproductive freedom? Do we believe in the promise of America?

Kamala Harris

00:22:53

And are we ready to, to fight for it? And when we fight, we win. God bless you, and God blessed.