



# 2022 GEORGIA SENATE RUNOFF



# SENATOR RAPHAEL WARNOCK

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Putting Care  
& Families  
First



**FAMILY FRIENDLY  
ACTION PAC**



# Senator Raphael Warnock: Putting Care and Families First

*Georgia voters share why they're voting for Senator Raphael Warnock in the runoff*

The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare a reality that American families have been grappling with for decades: Our economy is not set up to support working families. Too often, a lack of paid family and medical leave and the high cost of things like prescription drugs, child care and elder care force working Americans to make the impossible choice between caring for their families and paying the bills. This is not a choice that hardworking people should have to make.

The Family Friendly Action PAC is educating voters in Georgia about what Sen. Raphael Warnock is doing to put families first, from working to lower costs to supporting paid family and medical leave. Our team is out in the field every day talking to voters about Sen. Raphael Warnock's record of fighting for working people and their families. Based on these conversations, we know that care issues are poised to play a pivotal role in the runoff election.

The stories below illustrate how important Sen. Raphael Warnock's positions on care issues are to voters in Georgia.



# Denise Anders



Denise Anders worked for the federal government for 35 years. During that time, she always had access to excellent health insurance and paid leave. Looking back, Denise reflects on how critical these benefits were in building the life she has today. Like many of us, Denise knows too many people who are not as fortunate. People who, through no fault of their own, became sick or experienced a family emergency and needed to take time away from work. For too many people this can mean losing out on essential income and sometimes risking their jobs altogether.

Denise is an advocate for paid leave and affordable elder care. Now that she is retired, she often needs help with cooking, cleaning and other household chores due to her arthritis. She's not eligible for Medicaid but she has private insurance which means she does not qualify for home health care. Between private insurance and Medicare, Denise pays around \$470 a month for her health care.

Thankfully, she has family to support her, but Denise doesn't want to be a burden and she needs weekly help. Denise is voting for Senator Raphael Warnock in the runoff because he is prioritizing the health and safety of seniors as well as paid leave for all.

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*I am voting for Senator Warnock in the runoff because I want leadership in the U.S. Senate who cares about their constituents across all stages of life.*

*Denise*

# Matthew Anders



During the height of the pandemic in 2020, Matthew Anders' work hours were cut so drastically, he was forced to find another job. The only employment he could find was through temporary staffing agencies. Over the next year, Matthew worked at seven different jobs. He had no benefits, no paid time off, and he was completely at the mercy of the next assignment. To make matters worse, Matthew found himself driving back and forth to another state to negotiate custody of his four-year old daughter, draining the modest savings he'd built. The stress and uncertainty led to a downward physical and mental spiral.

Matthew had just started to regain his financial footing when he and his girlfriend were in a car accident in July, resulting in him being airlifted to a local trauma center. His girlfriend works for a non-profit with an unlimited PTO policy but Matthew worked at a factory and his PTO was exhausted after just three days. In pain and still recovering, Matthew had to leave his job. He is back to part-time, temporary work with no benefits.

Matthew is voting for Senator Warnock because he knows his situation isn't unique and too many working people are forced into cycles of poverty by policies that prioritize business over people.

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*I will definitely be voting and paid leave is among my top issues. I hope others will use this election as an opportunity to put people in office who care about honoring all parts of our lives because too many of us are one healthcare emergency away from losing it all.*

*Matthew*



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**Griffin, GA**

# Randi Gregory



In 2017, Randi Gregory was excited to start a new job at a small non profit. It was her first director role and it allowed her to move back home to Georgia. In so many ways, it was her dream job and represented a new chapter in her career. However, it came with one major downside – the position offered no health benefits and Randi had been diagnosed with hypertension the previous year. The hypertension was so advanced that it required medication to control the symptoms.

Randi tried to sign up for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplace but according to their guidelines she made too much money to qualify for any subsidies. At the time, Randi was making around \$45,000 a year and she could not afford to pay for rent, a car payment, student loans and an additional \$500 a month for health insurance. After doing some research, Randi found a government backed, income based health center. However, Randi quickly found herself in the same position. According to the health center, her income was considered too high to qualify for help. Randi had to pay \$150 out of pocket just to get in the door. Ultimately, she had to leave the job that she loved because she couldn't continue on without health insurance.

Randi wants our legislators to focus on taking care of all of our citizens and to recognize health care as a human right. That's why she's supporting Senator Raphael Warnock for re-election in the runoff. He's the only candidate in this race who is interested in supporting working people like her.

*I want universal health care and I want Georgia to expand Medicaid. This is why I'm supporting Senator Raphael Warnock in the runoff for U.S. Senate. Georgians should not have to risk bankruptcy to pay for health insurance or healthcare.*

*Randi*

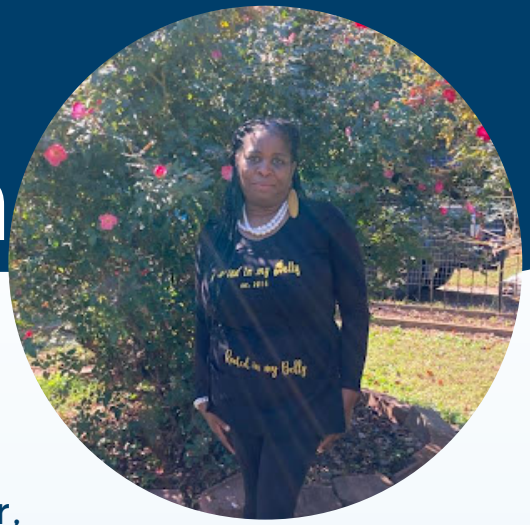


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**Atlanta, GA**

# Pamela Grisham



Pamela Grisham's mother retired when she was 45 years old but by the time she turned 50, she began to suffer from chronic diseases like high blood pressure and diabetes. For a while, her savings covered the costs. However, expensive medical bills and prescription drugs eventually drained those savings, leaving her in a difficult financial and health position.

Despite having insurance with Kaiser, it did not cover her most expensive medications. One cost \$1,300 a month and the other \$700 a month; she was forced to pay for both out of pocket.

Eventually the stress of managing the financial and health challenges took a toll on her mental health. Soon after she was diagnosed with appendicitis which required surgery to correct. After being home for one week, Pamela's mother passed away at the age of 50. Pamela had no idea her mother was paying so much for her prescriptions and this experience, along with her husband's struggles, have deeply impacted her. Pamela's husband is diabetic and allergic to generic insulin but their insurance company refuses to cover the name brand insulin. Because of this they're forced to pay \$700 out of pocket while they search another insurance company.

Pamela doesn't believe that any family should ever have to experience these struggles. She's supporting Senator Raphael Warnock for U.S. Senate in the runoff because she believes deeply in affordable prescription drugs for every person.

*I want people to be able to afford their prescriptions or receive medicine for free if they can not afford to pay – no one should be left out. I'm looking for transformative change and I know that Senator Warnock is the right person to make that happen! That's why I'm voting for him in the runoff.*

*Pamela*



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**Decatur, GA**

# Charamie Howard



Charamie Howard is a single mom to 13-year-old Maleena and for as long as she can remember, finding affordable, reliable child care in Georgia has been one of the more difficult aspects of parenthood. From the time Maleena was two years old, Charamie has struggled to find and afford childcare which is regularly hundreds of dollars a week. This doesn't include the exorbitant fees, like \$1 a minute for being even a few minutes late for pickup. Because Charamie is a wage worker and has limited control over her schedule, she's been forced to turn down lucrative job opportunities when child care didn't fit the schedule. Once Charamie took a job working overnight so she could be available for Maleena during the day but she had to leave when her child care proved unreliable.

Between unpredictable schedules and a lack of paid time off for medical emergencies and family care, Charamie is finding it difficult to recover from the pandemic and get back on solid financial footing. Charamie is supporting Senator Raphael Warnock because she believes he cares about working families and understands how difficult things are for people doing the best they can to provide for their families.

When Charamie votes in December, she's supporting Senator Raphael Warnock because she wants to see more and better child care options, higher paying jobs that offer paid time off, and programs that support working families. She believes the government has a responsibility to provide these services so that families can thrive.

*It's my responsibility to take care of my family and if I don't have paid leave, I can't do that. Every job should have a standard of paid leave – it's better for the company and the employees.*

Charamie

# Kenya Jackson



Kenya Jackson had been at her job for two years and had a great attendance and performance record when she needed to ask for time off to be with her daughter who was 16 and pregnant. Following the birth of her grandchild, her job gave her an ultimatum – your daughter or your job.

This is an impossible decision for any parent but for Kenya, there was only one choice. She informed her job that she would be taking some time off to support her daughter and grandchild. Thankfully, her job did not carry out the threat of termination but they did prevent Kenya from using the paid leave time off that she had worked for and earned. The reason – because she wasn't the person who gave birth.

Shortly after this incident, the company stopped offering paid leave altogether. Employees only had access to time off specifically for vacation. And even if the employee had the time, there was no guarantee that it would be approved. Kenya says the entire situation was incredibly disappointing. She worked hard and followed the rules, only to be treated unfairly.

Thankfully, Kenya has a new job that offers paid time off. Kenya says paid leave is important because at some point or other, everyone will need to take time off of work for personal reasons. And without paid leave, most people are one paycheck away from financial disaster. Kenya says Senator Warnock is absolutely getting her vote in the runoff because he will prioritize working families and their needs.

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*I don't believe that people should have to worry about becoming homeless if they need to take time off from work. Paid leave is essential because too many people are one paycheck away from financial ruin.*

Kenya



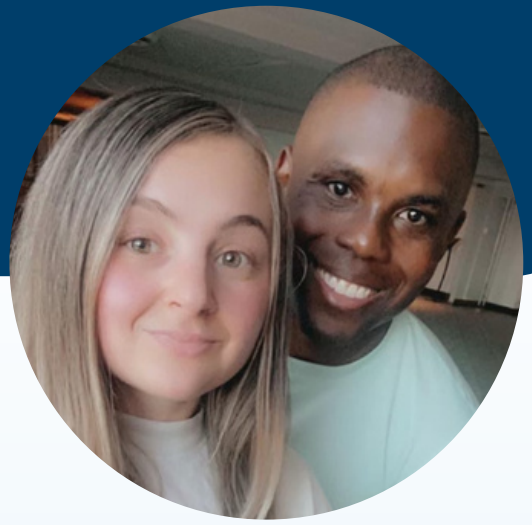
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**Clayton, GA**



# Shun & Julie Kidd



Before Julie Kidd was married, she was forced to drop out of high school for lack of affordable, reliable child care for her oldest son. Thankfully, friends and family helped out and she received her GED. Unfortunately, 12 years later not much has changed.

When Julie and her husband, Shun, welcomed their third son a year ago, she found herself back in difficult but familiar territory - navigating the costly, sparse, and often uncertain child care terrain of North Georgia.

They called every day care in surrounding cities and heard the same story - staff shortages made worse by the pandemic, too long waiting lists, and impending closures. Fortunately, they have understanding employers who offer flexible hours, a strong family support system, and are able to afford the ever increasing costs.

Even with all of their advantages, it took them weeks to find quality child care for their youngest son and both Julie and Shun describe this as an incredibly stressful time for their family. Julie and Shun are supporting Senator Raphael Warnock because they want leaders who empathize with their fellow citizens and will work to ensure we have fair policies that support better child care for families and workers.

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*It's not easy raising kids and good child care or bad child care impacts your entire life. If you can't find a good day care provider, it impacts your work, your life, and your professional advancement. It's all connected and Senator Warnock understands that we should be helping each other.*

*Shun &  
Julie*

# Keshia Milsap



Keshia Milsap is a wife, mother of two and occupational therapy assistant. When she had her first child, she was only eligible for two weeks of paid time off. The additional time she needed to care for her son was unpaid. Because Keshia's son would not feed from a bottle, she needed to take more time away from work to breastfeed him and ensure he thrived. However, after eight weeks, Keshia had no choice but to send her son to daycare and return to work.

This is one of the most difficult decisions that Keshia had to make as a mother but she felt there was no other choice. At the time, she was a single mother of two children and could not afford to take any more unpaid leave. Keshia applied for other assistance and was approved for \$300. While Keshia says she's grateful for the support, it did little to help cover her household expenses which included her \$850 rent payment and a \$300 car payment. Without the support of her family, Keshia would have been unable to care for her children despite working full time.

Keshia is an advocate for 12 weeks of paid paternity care so that mothers and families have the time and financial support they need to properly care for and bond with their children without the stress of unpaid bills or job loss. She's supporting Senator Raphael Warnock in the runoff because he understands that mothers and families need help and he has a plan to support women like her.

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*I believe that everyone deserves 12 weeks of paid paternity care so that they have the time needed to bond with their child without the stress of unpaid bills or job loss. This is why I support the work of Family Friendly Georgia and why I will be voting for Senator Raphael Warnock in the runoff.*

Keshia



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**Douglasville, GA**

# Dorian Robinson



Dorian Robinson is a mom of two who has struggled to find affordable child care for her two young children since moving to Georgia. She's originally from South Carolina and has a limited network of trusted family and friends in the state. It has been difficult for Dorian to expand her community because although she's young and eager to enter the workforce, she has to stay at home while her partner works. The money she would make isn't enough to cover the costs of child care for both children.

Dorian's only hope for re-entering the workforce soon is Georgia's lottery funded universal Pre-K program. Unfortunately, there are limited spots and Dorian can only hope that there is an available spot in her area when her daughter turns four next year and becomes eligible. Until Dorian knows the outcome of the process, she has to limit her job searches to remote work which is becoming harder post pandemic.

After months of searching, Dorian remains unemployed but she is hopeful for future opportunities.

Dorian worked for President Biden during the 2020 election and appreciates all he tried to do to expand child care options and wages for workers.

Dorian is excited to support Senator Raphael Warnock. She believes he will work with President Biden to prioritize family friendly economic policies.

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*It's not easy having kids and then trying to get a job; we need more affordable child care options for job interviews and for work.*

*Dorian*

# Leslie Wright Watkins



Leslie Wright Watkins is a loving mom, wife and grandmother -- these identities are the ones that mean the most to her. However, the identity that often dictates her day is that of a dialysis patient who requires regular care and treatment. Leslie previously received her dialysis treatment in a hospital but she frequently left feeling emotionally and physically drained. So, for the past eight years, she has spent 10 hours a day, everyday, undergoing at home saline treatments. While the at-home treatments are a better option for her, they still come with side-effects and Leslie is unable to work full, or even part-time.

Her husband has a job with benefits but they both require daily medications, some of which are so expensive that after only a few months, their coverage is exhausted and they have to pay the full costs out of pocket. Because of this, they've had to make difficult decisions about which household bills to cover and they've had to sacrifice to make ends meet and afford their life-saving medicine.

Thankfully, in the past few months, her husband's job has started a free clinic and they are now able to get their medicine free of charge. This opportunity has been life-changing for Leslie's family. They no longer worry about affording their medicine and it's freed them up to save for retirement and make needed fixes around their home and to their vehicle.

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*I am absolutely voting for Senator Warnock because he understands that everyone should be able to afford their medicine. No one should have to choose between basic needs and life-saving drugs.*

*Leslie*



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**Rome, GA**

# About Family Friendly Action PAC

The Family Friendly Action PAC is dedicated to electing candidates who will work to improve the lives of working families. We build grassroots support for solutions that would transform the lives of American families, like lower cost prescription drugs, paid family and medical leave and affordable elder and child care. During the 2022 general election, the Family Friendly Action PAC ran a \$12.6 million voter contact program that spanned battleground states including Georgia, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Washington and Wisconsin.



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