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FJP Statement on Lawsuit Challenging Georgia's Prosecutor Oversight Law

<u>Fair and Just Prosecution</u> Executive Director Miriam Krinsky issued the following statement in response to a lawsuit filed today in the Fulton County Superior Court challenging Georgia Senate Bill 92, which was signed by Governor Brian Kemp in May and created an oversight commission to investigate elected prosecutors and remove them from office:

"We stand with the elected prosecutors who are challenging Georgia's recent law that makes it easier to subvert the will of the people and remove duly elected prosecutors from office simply because of disagreements over policy decisions that are uniquely vested in the district attorney.

Lawmakers in Georgia had no issue respecting prosecutorial discretion when elected prosecutors over past decades expanded the reach of the criminal legal system and spent inherently limited state resources on punitive approaches that don't promote – and might even endanger – public safety. It is only now, after numerous reform-minded elected prosecutors (many of whom are people of color) were elected throughout Georgia on an agenda of being smarter around how to promote safer and healthier communities, that the legislature decided oversight was needed.

Communities want and deserve evidence-backed solutions to crime, but sadly many politicians in Georgia and across the country remain tethered to failed policies of the past and are willing to undermine the foundations of our democracy and criminal legal system to protect the status quo. We hope the court will see this law for the legally flawed and political attack that it is and ensure that prosecutorial discretion and the rights of Georgia's voters are safeguarded."

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Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP's work, visit our <u>website</u> and follow us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Threads</u>, and <u>LinkedIn</u>.