

NC NOW Statement on Political Upheaval Caused By Rep. Tricia Cotham Party Defection



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Raleigh, NC - North Carolina NOW members are shocked and gravely disappointed that elected Democrat Rep. Tricia Cotham announced her defection to the Republican Party on Wednesday, April 5. Cotham was elected [on a progressive platform, calling for the minimum wage to \[be\] doubled, and for laws to protect LGBTQ rights and abortion access](#). These issues are important to voters in her district who voted for her with stated progressive values, and to NOW members across our state. Republicans have been forcing a wide range of extreme policies over the past 12 years.

Just hours after Cotham switched parties, Republicans introduced several new anti-transgender bills. Also, Republicans have been working on abortion bans beyond the 20 week ban currently back in effect. Doctors have explained how [the 20 week ban is already causing dangerous delays in treatment](#) for pregnant individuals. [A full ban was filed](#) last week. [Speaker Tim Moore has said he favors 6 week bans](#), and 12-13 week bans are also being considered. However, input from the other party as well as public input and medical input is not being included as part of the bill writing process.

Cotham's switch gives Republicans a supermajority in both chambers, enabling them to override Governor Cooper's vetoes against legislation on those and other issues that have a significant impact on women and their allies. Cotham's move has repercussions not only for the people in Mecklenburg County district, but for the entire state of North Carolina.

We do not see how Rep. Cotham can possibly continue to advocate for the progressive issues she stood for in her campaign from within the current Republican Party, and therefore join other groups calling for Rep. Tricia Cotham's immediate resignation.

North Carolina National Organization for Women (NC NOW) - Since our founding in 1966, NOW's purpose is to take action through intersectional grassroots activism to promote feminist ideals, lead societal change, eliminate discrimination, and achieve and protect the equal rights of all women and girls in all aspects of social, political, and economic life.

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