

# Rick Brattin Extremism Spotlight

**Republican colleagues stripped "hard-right" "swamp creature" Brattin of his committee assignments for using the Senate for "personal interest" without "integrity."** In January 2024, Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden (R) "stripped a group of hard-right senators of their committee chairmanships," The Kansas City Star reported, referring to Brattin, state Sen. Bill Eigel, and state Sen. Denny Hoskins, leaders of the far-right "Freedom Caucus." Rowden, flanked by GOP senators, called the group the "Chaos Caucus" and blamed it for making the legislative session "an embarrassment." Rowden called Brattin and the other caucus members "swamp creatures who, all too often, remind me more of my children than my colleagues." Sen. Jason Bean, a Holcomb Republican, and the assistant majority leader, said that Brattin and the caucus had not "followed the tradition of respect and integrity." Bean said, "They have used the floor of the Senate for their own personal interest, make political speeches and obstructed the process in which legislation and issues are debated and passed." The punishment came after the Senate "collapsed into a complete meltdown" when the Freedom Caucus held up dozens of nominees of Gov. Mike Parson (R), "effectively holding the appointments hostage until senators advance a divisive proposal to make it harder to change the state constitution," according to The Star. [The Kansas City Star, [1/23/24](#); Fox 2 Now, [1/23/24](#)]

**Brattin proposed requiring women seeking abortions to obtain written consent from the father, except in cases of "legitimate rape;" later proposed banning abortion even in cases of rape and incest.** In 2014, Brattin introduced a bill to require women seeking abortions to get permission from the fetus's father, except in cases of incest or "legitimate rape." Brattin said, "Just like any rape, you have to report it, and you have to prove it. So you couldn't just go and say, 'Oh yeah, I was raped' and get an abortion. It has to be a legitimate rape." In 2022, as a candidate for Congress, Brattin proposed banning abortion in all circumstances, even in cases of rape and incest. He said he would provide an exception only for saving the life of the mother. [Courthouse News Service, [12/23/14](#); Columbia Missourian, [7/22/22](#)]

**Brattin claimed on the House floor that "there is a distinction between homosexuality" and "being a human being."** In 2017, Brattin said during a Missouri House floor debate, "When you look at the tenets of religion, of the Bible, of the Quran, of other religions, there is a distinction between homosexuality and just being a human being." Brattin's remarks, which made national headlines, came as he argued against a measure to ban discrimination in employment, housing, and accommodation based on sexual orientation. The Kansas City Star editorial board called Brattin's comments "deplorable" and demonstrative of "a stunning lack of understanding of theology and self-government." Noting that Republicans billed their efforts as intended to make the state more business-friendly, the editorial board asked what business would want to operate in a state that "tolerates discrimination" and "where a representative thinks gays and lesbians are less than human?" [The Kansas City Star, [5/9/17](#)]

**The Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights identified Brattin among ten state legislators nationwide embodying "far-right efforts to advance from the margins to the**

**mainstream.** "No member represents the far-right views towards the LGBTIA community more openly than Missouri State Sen. Rick Brattin," the civil rights organization wrote. IREHR also cited Brattin's sponsorships of a fetal heartbeat bill "enforced through private civil action," legislation attacking racial equity, a bill banning vaccine requirements, and a nullification law allowing the General Assembly to refrain from enforcing any federal laws it deems unconstitutional. He also introduced a bill requiring creationism to be taught on equal footing as evolution in public schools. Brattin claimed that "gender confusion" and "anti-whiteness" are "symptoms of American Communism" being pushed in "a deliberate effort to destroy America." [Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights, [2022](#); Mother Jones, 2/8/13]