

Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization

Updates from the Office of MS Attorney General Lynn Fitch

March 18, 2022

KEY ARGUMENT:

Preventing discriminatory abortions based on a Down syndrome diagnosis

Monday, March 21 marks World Down Syndrome Day, an opportunity to advocate for the rights of people with Down syndrome. Sadly, in the United States, more than two-thirds of unborn children diagnosed with Down syndrome tragically lose their lives through abortion, despite laws that protect a person with disabilities after birth.

As 228 Members of Congress wrote in an amicus brief filed in the *Dobbs* case, "State laws regulating abortions based solely on Down syndrome diagnoses prevent prejudice and stigma against the Down syndrome community, and the greater community of individuals with disabilities, yet lower courts are split on whether these crucial interests may be heard solely because of the viability rule."

In a December 2020 article in *The Atlantic*, Sarah Zhang wrote, "Down syndrome is frequently called the 'canary in the coal mine' for selective reproduction. It was one of the first genetic conditions to be routinely screened for in utero, and it remains the most morally troubling because it is among the least severe. It is very much compatible with life—even a long, happy life." States like Mississippi are moving to enact laws that protect against abortion based on Down syndrome, but until the Supreme Court returns authority over abortion policymaking to the people and their elected leaders the fate of those bills, and those children, remains unclear.

-Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch



WHAT WE'RE READING

The Hill: Roberts's roadmap to reversing Roe v. Wade

By Helen Alvaré

"Same-sex marriage is not an issue in *Dobbs*, but Roberts's roadmap from *Obergefell* is a sure guide for a majority of the Court to reverse *Roe* on the foundations of respect for its own precedent and separation of powers. Since the foundation of our country, up to the moment the case was handed down, states protected unborn life from abortion in the vast majority of cases, and continued to try even when the Court had almost completely tied their hands."

USA TODAY: Biden gave his blessing to radical abortion law. Both the president and the bill failed.

By Maureen Ferguson

“In a post-Roe America, however, states would be free to adopt more restrictive or permissive laws, reflecting their constituencies. And hopefully, in that future, states will reform policies to better support mothers, fathers and children from conception to birth and from birth onward.”



Monday, March 21 marks World Down Syndrome Day. Feel free to use this graphic on your social channels.

#WorldDownSyndromeDay
#EmpowerWomenPromoteLife



ATTORNEY GENERAL LYNN FITCH IN THE NEWS

Picayune Item: AG Fitch Continues to Fight ALI Proposal to Weaken Laws on Sexual Assault, Trafficking, and Sex Offender Registration

“Laws against child exploitation, human trafficking, and sexual assault need to be tough to protect the young and vulnerable from predators,” said Attorney General Lynn Fitch. “The [American Law Institute] is weakening the laws, just when we should be making them stronger. It is a big step backwards, and I will continue to fight to protect victims of these crimes and to ensure citizens are safe from predators.”

WJTV: Mississippi attorney general alerts customers about new concerns with 2021 T-Mobile data breach

By Bianca Ball

“Attorney General Lynn Fitch (R-Miss.) said any Mississippians who may have been impacted by the data breach announced by T-Mobile in August 2021 should take appropriate steps to protect their information from identity theft... ‘Your identity is your most valuable possession,’ said Fitch. ‘We are here to help you protect it.’”

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