

# the EMPOWERMENT project

Updates from the Office of Attorney General Lynn Fitch

March 16, 2023

## A Note from AG Lynn Fitch

As the Mississippi Legislature nears the end of this year's session, it is exciting to see so many of the goals we outlined in The Empowerment Project making their way toward becoming law. Bills that would increase adoption and childcare tax credits, create a foster parents' bill of rights, improve child support enforcement, enhance safe haven laws, and create the MAMA (Mississippi Access to Maternal Assistance) program continue to gain support. And the bill that provides a full year of postpartum Medicaid coverage for new mothers is headed to the Governor's desk.

These are ideas that can be replicated in other states. If you know of other legislative efforts to empower women through initiatives like these or if you'd like to learn how to get involved with The Empowerment Project, please **contact us**.

May God Bless You,



## WHAT WE'RE READING

### [Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal: Mississippi Legislature votes to extend Medicaid benefits for mothers](#)

"After years of legislative roadblocks, both chambers of the Mississippi Legislature have passed legislation that gives low income pregnant people a full year of Medicaid coverage after birth, almost guaranteeing the policy will become law..."

...The proposal to increase the state's postpartum Medicaid coverage from 60 days to 12 months now heads to Republican Gov. Tate Reeves' desk, and he has already said he would sign the legislation into law..."

### [Vicksburg News: AG Fitch issues statement on new Mississippi Vulnerable Person Abuse Registry](#)

"The new law is similar to the sex offender registry, and requires individuals who have been convicted of abusing, neglecting, or exploiting a vulnerable person to register with the Vulnerable Person Abuse Registry. Those who fail to do so will face additional penalties."

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## SHARE ON SOCIAL

# Mississippi Leading the Way

### *Awaiting House & Senate Final Approval:*

- MS Access to Maternal Assistance (MAMA)
- Increased Adoption and Childcare Tax Credits
- Foster Parents' Bill of Rights
- Expedited Rape Kit Testing
- Improved Safe Haven Law
- Expanded Child Support Enforcement

### *Headed to the Governor's Desk:*

- Medicaid Postpartum Coverage



If you want to help push these initiatives across the finish line, you can show your support by reposting [this](#) legislative update.

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## ATTORNEY GENERAL LYNN FITCH IN THE NEWS

**Desoto County News: Attorney General Fitch Part of Coalition Seeking Answers about TikTok**

Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch has joined a 46-state coalition in asking a state

court to order social media company TikTok, Inc. to fully comply with an ongoing investigation into whether the company violated consumer protection laws.

“With TikTok’s audience being largely young users, it is especially critical we ensure our laws are being followed,” said Fitch. “We launched this multistate investigation to examine their practices, but TikTok has not only refused to cooperate with this investigation but appears to be openly defiant of our authority. We have urged the court to allow us to carry out our duties and ensure TikTok is taking every step possible to protect our children and teens.”

**Special to the Daily Journal: [Mississippians Deserve Swift Justice](#)**

"Reports indicate that in 2019 there were 600 rape kits waiting to be processed in Mississippi. Some of these kits were more than a decade old. These are not just kits in a lab. Each one represents a Mississippian who turned to the state in her most vulnerable hour...

...A bill is currently being considered in the Mississippi Legislature that would fix this process and bring much-needed justice to these brave victims...

...As attorney general, my office investigates and prosecutes many rape cases. We also run the state’s Crime Victim Compensation program. In every one of our interactions, it is our priority to act with compassion and empathy. Delay puts off the day they can begin the journey to closure and is the opposite of compassion.

I am grateful for the leadership of these legislators who are doing the important work of ensuring our laws treat victims with the respect they deserve. We may not be able to undo the heinous crimes committed against them, but we can do our part to help empower them on their pathway to restored dignity and hope by ensuring justice is served swiftly."

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