



TEXAS STYLE ABORTION BAN AWAITS A VOTE ON IDAHO'S SENATE FLOOR

Reproductive Rights Organizations Warn

A 6-Week Abortion Ban Is Dangerous and Unconstitutional

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOISE — Members of our state's Reproductive Justice Coalition, Freeing Idaho, expressed dismay at this morning's passage of SB1309 out of Idaho's Senate State Affairs Committee. Their highlighted concerns are for the safety of community members and medical providers.

SB1309 is a bill which copycats SB8 from Texas—a bill that eradicates a pregnant person in Idaho from having access to abortion after just 6 weeks of pregnancy. Additionally, it encourages everyday Idahoans to act as vigilantes, allowing anyone to surveil the lives of pregnant people & giving the ability to sue medical professionals who provide a safe abortion for a minimum of \$20,000 in damages.

"SB1309 would eliminate nearly all abortion care in our state, leaving pregnant Idahoans unable to access essential health care," said Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates Idaho State Director Mistie DelliCarpini-Tolman. "This bill is a dangerous and cruel attempt to circumvent our constitutional right to abortion. Idaho deserves better than out-of-touch politicians who are more focused on appeasing fringe extremists than they are with strengthening health care in our state."

Legal Voice Senior Attorney Kim Clark states "The passage of SB1309 would make the state complicit in this abusive behavior in service of no legitimate state interest. This law does not protect life. No one seriously believes that it will stop abortion in the state of Idaho and the bill certainly does not protect the lives of pregnant people and their children."

"Not only is SB1309 blatantly unconstitutional as a near total ban on abortion, but it is also designed in such a manner that undermines the separation of powers and could be weaponized by other states to limit the constitutional rights that we all hold dear," says ACLU Idaho Policy Strategist Lauren Bramwell." The ACLU will continue advocating for an Idaho that respects and supports each of us in making the deeply personal decisions that determine the shape of our lives, including whether, when and how we choose to have children."

"Reproductive coercion is a health disparity issue for women. Removing bodily autonomy and choice for women will only exacerbate the issue of intimate partner violence for many Idahoans," said tai simpson, Director of Social Change at the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence.

Chelsea Gaona Lincoln, Executive Director of Add the Words, shared “SB1309 won’t stop abortions; no piece of legislation ever has or ever will. These shameful bans on pregnant people’s access to essential healthcare will cost Idaho’s communities in safety and will be paid in the increased mortality of people who are forced to seek desperate measures to end an unwanted pregnancy or force individuals to carry out a pregnancy against their will.”

Freeing Idaho Coalition members are urging all Idahoans to contact their state senators and urge them to protect bodily autonomy for all Idahoans by opposing SB1309 as it makes its way to the Senate’s floor. This bill flies in the face of current-day constitutional protections of privacy and access to reproductive health care.

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Freeing Idaho is a coalition of community partners that use a multi-faceted approach to actualize bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom in Idaho. We envision a world where reproductive care is safe, accessible, and free from punishment and stigma regardless of a person’s race, income, sexual orientation, gender identity, citizenship status, zip code, or incarceration status.

Legal Voice is a progressive feminist organization using the power of the law to make positive change for women, girls, and LGBTQ people in the Northwest. Legal Voice uses ground-breaking litigation, legislative advocacy, and community education to fight gender oppression and injustice. More at legalvoice.org.

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Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates (PPAA) is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization educating residents and policymakers about reproductive health issues in Alaska, Hawai’i, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky and Washington. PPAA lobbies and educates to advance Planned Parenthood’s mission, and engages in limited electoral activities. More at ppallianceadvocates.org.

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The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Idaho is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights. The ACLU of Idaho strives to advance civil liberties and civil rights through activities that include litigation, education and lobbying. Learn more at acluidaho.org

ACLU of Idaho Media Contact: Jeremy Woodson, jwoodson@acluidaho.org, 208315-7822

The Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence is a non-profit organization engaging voices to create change in the prevention, intervention and response to domestic violence, dating abuse, stalking and sexual assault. More at <https://idvsa.org>.

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Add the Words. Idaho is a state wide, volunteer ran, non profit organization; initially created to urge the Idaho Legislature to update the Idaho Human Rights Act to include, “sexual orientation and gender identity.” Since 2015 it has expanded into other community centric needs of the LGBTQ+ community, including raising tens of thousands of dollars in community mutual aid throughout the pandemic. More at <https://www.addthewords.org>

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