

News From The States

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS TODAY

Thanks for being here and supporting our work.



By [Elisha Brown](#)



*New Jersey's First Lady Tammy Murphy, who is running for U.S. Senate, spoke about maternal health at University Hospital in Newark on Nov. 20, 2023.
(Sophie Nieto-Muñoz/New Jersey Monitor)*

I hope you enjoyed the holiday.

Earlier this year, New Jersey launched an agency dedicated to improving maternal and infant

health. Now, lawmakers want to require hospitals and birthing centers to allow doulas in their facilities.

Legislation unveiled Monday would mandate that doulas — nonmedical professionals who provide holistic pregnancy support — be allowed to accompany mothers throughout labor and delivery, [New Jersey Monitor](#) reports.

“Every woman deserves a positive, safe, and secure childbirth experience by having the knowledge and support of what resources are available to make that possible, no matter what your zip code is,” said Democratic Sen. Renee Burgess, the bill’s co-sponsor.

The law would require hospitals and birthing centers to accommodate doula care in their facilities. Providers would also be mandated to have a staff member serve as a liaison between the institution and doulas.

New Jersey received a C+ in a new [report](#) measuring maternal and child health outcomes. “I know we have a lot more work to do, but we are moving the needle in the right direction,” said First Lady Tammy Murphy, who is running for U.S. Senate.

Nationwide, **there have been sparse improvements in mothers and babies’ well being** over the past year, according to the March of Dimes. The organization said **maternal and child health disparities persist, particularly in the Southeast, Appalachia and Midwest.**

“The fact is, we are not prioritizing the health of moms and babies in this country, and our systems, policies, and environments, as they stand today, continue to put families at great risk,” said Dr. Elizabeth Cherot, March of Dimes President and CEO, in a statement.

THE BEAT *States Newsroom coverage*

Alliance Defending Freedom asks U.S. Supreme Court to intervene in Idaho emergency abortion case



*Major legal firms affiliated with conservative causes asked the nation's high court to intervene in an abortion case that pits Idaho against the Biden administration.
(Brandon Bell/Getty Images)*

Two conservative-leaning national law firms want the U.S. Supreme Court to weigh in on a federal case in Idaho concerning whether emergency room physicians should be allowed to provide stabilizing abortion care without fear of prosecution under state law, [States Newsroom](#) reports. Attorneys from **Alliance Defending Freedom**, the group behind the effort to restrict medication abortion access, and **Cooper & Kirk**, which has represented Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in an education case over culture wars, filed a motion with the nation's high court this week on behalf of Idaho **Attorney General Raúl Labrador**.

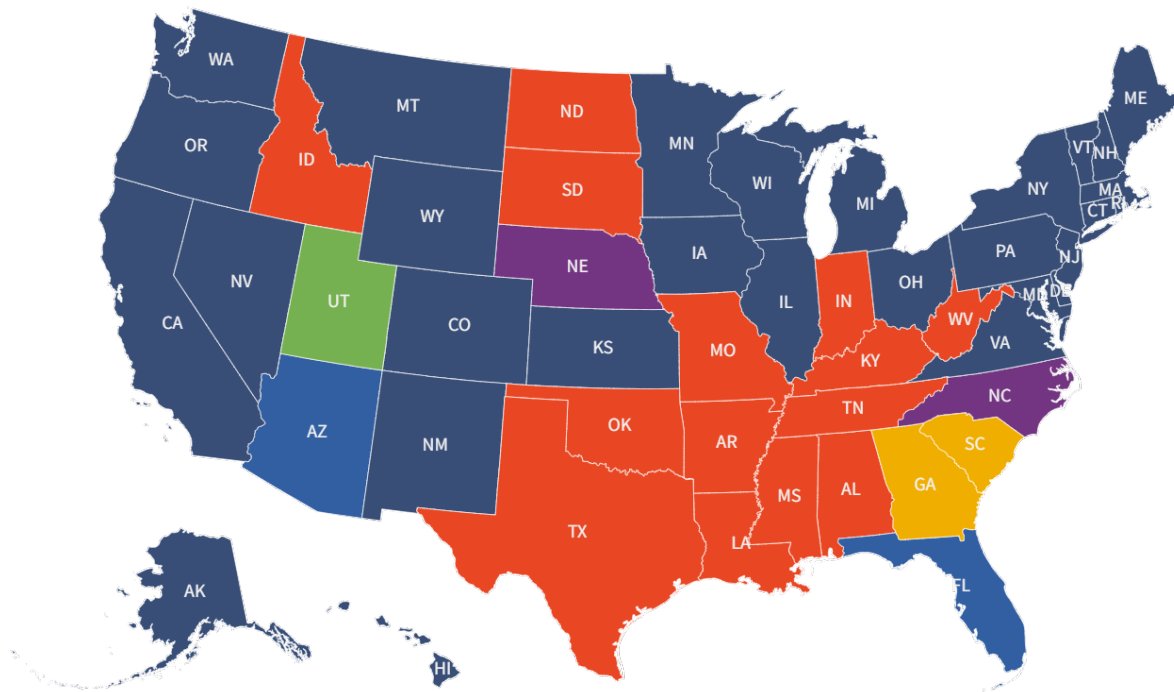
The case in Idaho — a state that bans abortion unless it would prevent the patient's death — deals with the federal **Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act**, or EMTALA. **Any hospitals that receive Medicare funding are required to provide emergency care to patients, including pregnant people, regardless of their ability to pay.** Alliance Defending Freedom and Cooper & Kirk lawyers argue that the Biden administration is forcing ER physicians to perform abortions. Just as federal law “does not require emergency rooms to provide psychiatric services where they are unavailable ... it does not require emergency rooms to provide treatments that are unavailable because state law forbids them,” the motion said.

“I’m thankful for the dozens of people who have tried to keep women connected to all their health care options, despite the hostility, threats and financial struggle they often face. Alabama’s abortion ban will eventually fall, and it will be due in no small part to these people keeping the candle lit in the darkness.” — **Brian Lyman**, editor, [Alabama Reflector](#)

THE PULSE *Reproductive rights news across the country*

- Auburn University received a \$2 million grant to expand telehealth services for rural Alabama residents who face barriers to health care, such as prenatal visits. ([Alabama Reflector](#))
- A South Dakota county’s officials accused of violating free speech in a petition gathering effort for abortion rights settle a lawsuit. ([South Dakota Searchlight](#))
- Backlash to affirmative action could jeopardize a maternal health program for Black and Pacific Islander San Franciscans. ([The 19th*](#))
- The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists released new guidelines for treating premenstrual disorders. ([Healthline](#))

STATE BY STATE *Abortion access in the U.S.*



Open this interactive map in your browser

Track state-level developments on reproductive rights anytime at [News From The States](#). Send tips and thoughts to ebrown@statesnewsroom.com, and follow her on Twitter

News From The States

A PROJECT OF STATES NEWSROOM



©News From The States, all rights reserved.

www.newsfromthestates.com | info@newsfromthestates.com

Manage your donation and subscription preferences [here](#).

Add info@newsfromthestates.com to your [address book](#) to ensure delivery.

Did someone forward you this newsletter? [Click here](#) to get it delivered to your inbox.

States Newsroom – News From The States

1414 Raleigh Rd #127

Chapel Hill, NC 27517

United States

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website or States Newsroom. If you believe you received this message in error or wish to change your subscription, please (Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).