



# Idaho Legislative Update

## 2025

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May 30, 2025

PRESENTED BY: Debbie Ketchum, DNP, RN, MAOM, NEA-BC, RNC-MNN, C-EFM

# **Advocacy:**

**To support, encourage and promote activism.**

**To wield influence toward a desired outcome.**

# EMTALA and Idaho

Physicians who practice within St. Luke's Health System are currently **protected from prosecution** for, performing abortions, when necessary, as part of **stabilizing care** under EMTALA. This protection only applies to St. Luke's medical staff and employees who treat patients presenting to an emergency facility.

**Published on:** March 25, 2025

[Update on Dobbs and Obstetrical Care in Idaho.](#)

The recent dismissal of the of *United States v. Idaho* case means that all other healthcare providers in Idaho who are not treating patients through St. Luke's Health System, who were previously allowed to perform abortions as part of EMTALA care under a legal injunction, may perform abortions when there is a **reasonable medical probability that failure to do so will result in the patient's death.**

[Reproductive Care in Idaho Update March 2025 | MIEC](#)

# **Summary of District Court's Decision in Adkins v. Idaho April 11, 2025 Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) and Abortion**

## **Idaho Abortion Ban Medical Exception Ruling Clarification:**

Court ruled Idaho's abortion bans allow abortions if the physician, in good faith, judges the patient faces a non-negligible risk of dying sooner without an abortion.

## **Conditions:**

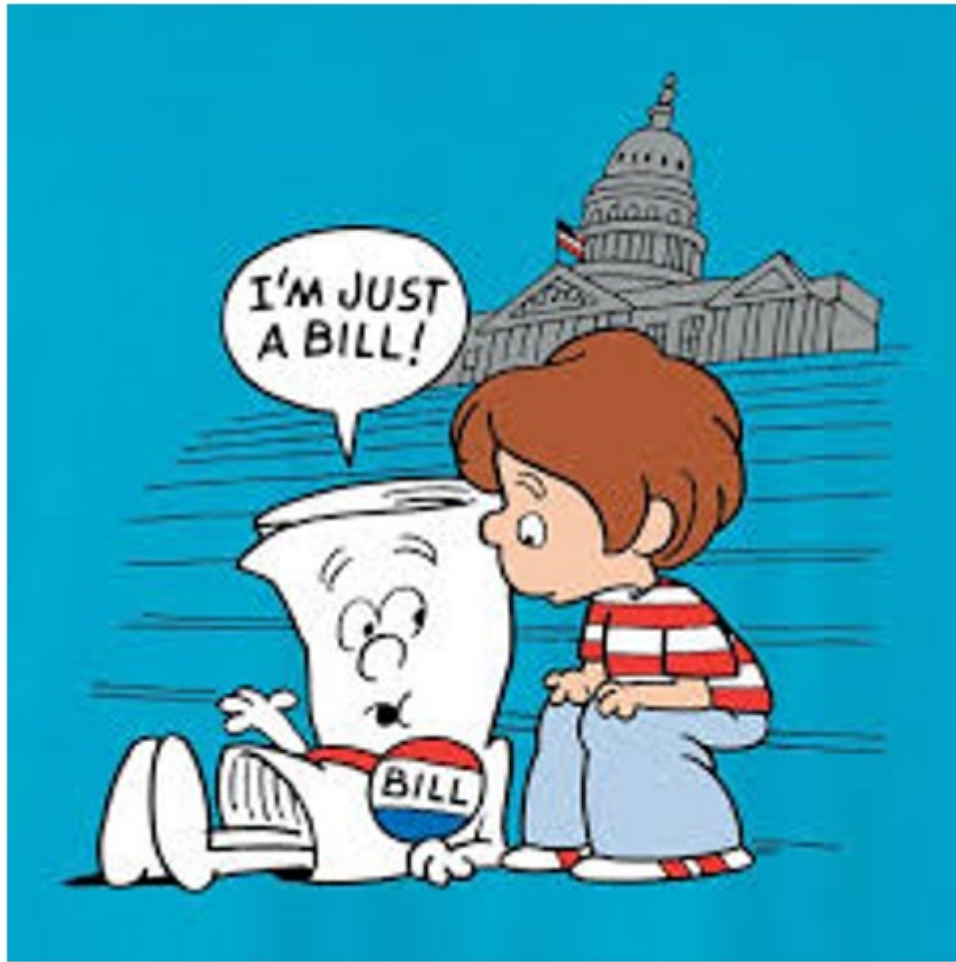
Applies to medical conditions or pregnancy complications that would be alleviated by an abortion, excluding self-harm risks.

## **Examples:**

Conditions like hypertension, cardiac disease, diabetes, and previable PPRM can shorten lifespan if abortion care is denied or delayed.

## **Broad Construction:**

Court emphasized a broad interpretation to protect pregnant women's lives, aligning with legislative policy of respect for human life.



<https://youtu.be/men-vp5jvzl>





# THE US LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

## SENATE

A BILL IS INTRODUCED BY A MEMBER OF THE SENATE AND ASSIGNED TO A COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW.

THE COMMITTEE MEETS TO DISCUSS, AMEND, AND VOTE ON THE BILL.



IF APPROVED, BILL PROCEEDS TO THE FULL SENATE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION, AMENDMENTS, AND VOTING.



PRESIDENT SIGNS THE BILL AND IT BECOMES A LAW.

IT STARTS WITH AN IDEA...



BILLS MUST PASS THROUGH BOTH CHAMBERS BEFORE BEING SENT TO THE PRESIDENT.

A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, MADE OF MEMBERS OF BOTH CHAMBERS, MEETS TO RESOLVE ANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE HOUSE AND SENATE VERSIONS OF THE BILL.

BOTH CHAMBERS VOTE ON FINAL BILL



VETO

PRESIDENT VETOES THE BILL AND SENDS IT BACK TO CONGRESS.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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THE COMMITTEE MEETS TO DISCUSS, AMEND, AND VOTE ON THE BILL.



IF APPROVED, BILL PROCEEDS TO THE FULL HOUSE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION, AMENDMENTS, AND VOTING.



THE VETO CAN BE OVERRIDDEN BY CONGRESS WITH A 2/3 VOTE.

# Legislative updates: 2025 Session

CS482552

- **House Bill 47-** ADOF Law  
Reported Signer  
Session Law Ch  
Effective: 07/01.

- **House Bill 137-** Unif Drugs  
02/04 Introduce  
02/05 Reported

- **House Bill 367-** HU  
3/04 Introduced  
3/05 Reported P

- **House Bill 433-** GEST/  
tightening regulations an  
3/21 Introduced



"Today we learned about the the 3 branches  
of government — politicians, lobbyists,  
and cable news."

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# Legislative updates: 2025 Session

[Legislation by Number – Idaho State Legislature](#)

## Senate

- **Senate Bill 1004**- CIVIL RIGHTS – Amends existing law to provide that freedom from discrimination because of sexual orientation or gender identity is a civil right.
  - 1/16 Introduced, read first time, referred to JRA for printing
  - 1/17 Reported printed; Referred to State Affairs
- **Senate Bill 1041**- HEALTH AND SAFETY- Amends, repeals, and adds to existing law to establish procedures regarding required tests and blood specimen collection for infants and newborns
  - [SENATE BILL NO.1014 \(2025\) - Newborns, required tests](#)
  - LAW**
  - Signed by Governor on 03/12/25
  - Session Law Chapter 45
  - Effective: 07/01/2025;
  - 07/01/2025 IDAPA Sunset Clause - SECTION 14
- **Senate Bill 1050**- ADOPTION- Amends existing law to provide that certain legal advice and counseling services be provided to birth parents and to provide for notification of such services
  - 2/04 Introduced, read first time, referred to JRA for printing
  - 2/05 Reported printed; Referred to Judiciary and Rules
- **Senate Bill 1059**- EMBRYOS, FETUSES, AND PREBORN CHILDREN – Amends and adds to existing law to establish provisions regarding applicability of the terms “embryo,” “fetus,” and “preborn child” in regards to a suit for wrongful death and the crimes of aggravated battery and homicide.
  - 2/06 Introduced, read first time, referred to JRA for printing
  - 2/07 Reported printed; Referred to State Affairs



# U. S. Legislative Update: 2025

[Bills and Resolutions -- GovTrack.us](#)

## 1. Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act

- A sweeping package of bills addressing social determinants of health, funding for community-based organizations, maternal mental health, digital tools, and workforce diversification.
- Still being reintroduced in parts; widely supported.

## 2. Keeping Obstetrics Local Act

- Aims to sustain and reopen labor and delivery services in rural and underserved hospitals.
- Proposes Medicare add-on payments and technical assistance to rural hospitals.
- Strong bipartisan support, especially from rural state representatives.

## 3. Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act

- Expands HRSA programs to train and support health professionals in improving maternal care.
- Focuses on rural and underserved areas.
- Encourages states to develop maternal health home models.

## 4. Medicaid Postpartum Coverage Extension

- A permanent 12-month postpartum coverage option is now available to states (thanks to the American Rescue Plan).
- Ongoing legislative pushes are encouraging all states to adopt the extension.
- Access to postpartum care is critical to reducing preventable maternal deaths.



# U. S. Legislative Update: 2025

[Bills and Resolutions -- GovTrack.us](#)

## 5. Midwives for MOMS Act

- Increases funding for midwifery education programs, especially in underserved areas.
- Aims to address the provider shortage in maternity care deserts.

## 6. Telehealth Expansion for Maternal Care

- Legislation to ensure continued access to telehealth for prenatal and postpartum visits.
- Includes reimbursement parity and support for broadband expansion.

## 7. Infant Formula Protection and Oversight

- In response to the 2022 formula shortage, new bills are focused on FDA oversight, supply chain protections, and WIC modernization.

## 8. Paid Family Leave

- While still debated federally, many states are advancing policies that provide paid maternity/paternity leave. Advocates tie this directly to improved newborn outcomes and maternal mental health.

## 9. Maternal Mental Health Access Act

- Focuses on expanding access to perinatal mental health services.
- Includes funding for screening, referral programs, and integrated behavioral health in OB settings.



“All advocacy at it’s  
core, is an exercise in  
empathy.”

- Samantha Power



Thank You!