

For Immediate Release:

The Satanic Temple Sues Idaho for Violating Religious Abortion Rights

Following SCOTUS overturning Roe v. Wade, TST aims to ensure members' abortion access

SALEM, MA — In the aftermath of the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs*, The Satanic Temple (TST) has filed a lawsuit in federal court against the state of Idaho for violating its members' rights by implementing an abortion ban.

This litigation in Idaho closely mirrors a lawsuit TST recently initiated in Indiana. As with that action, TST's case has four key arguments. The first is that banning abortion, and thereby compelling pregnancy, can be viewed as state seizure of property. Because a uterus can provide an economic benefit if the person chooses to offer surrogate services, compelling a pregnancy without consent or compensation, is an unconstitutional seizure of property under the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution according to The Satanic Temple.

Along similar lines, TST claims that forced pregnancy subjects pregnant persons to involuntary servitude. In addition, they argue that the abortion ban runs afoul of the Fourteenth Amendment by discriminating against those who become pregnant by accident. Because the ban does not punish those who become pregnant by rape or incest, the law creates separate classes of people who are involuntarily pregnant. The final argument is that the ban is an infringement upon its members' religious freedom to participate in its religious Abortion Ritual. TST argues that this is an explicit violation of both the First Amendment and Idaho's Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA).

"Idaho's abortion bans run afoul of the US Constitution and Idaho state laws in so many ways that the judiciary would have to be shamelessly corrupt not to recognize one or all of our claims," noted TST Director of Campaign Operations Erin Helian. "We have confidence in American jurisprudence and the courts will do the right thing by respecting our religious rights."

About The Satanic Temple

The Satanic Temple, subject of the critically-acclaimed documentary, *Hail Satan?*, and the academic analysis of modern Satanism, *Speak of the Devil*, confronts religious discrimination to secure the separation of church and state and defend the Constitutional rights of its members. In response to Oklahoma and Arkansas placing a Ten Commandments statue on Capitol grounds, TST offered its bronze Baphomet statue to stand alongside the Christian monuments. TST hosts the "After School Satan" club to counter the Evangelical "Good News Clubs" in public schools across the country to promote a plurality of religious viewpoints. The mission of The Satanic Temple is to encourage benevolence and empathy, reject tyrannical authority, advocate practical common sense, oppose injustice, and undertake noble pursuits for the individual will. For more information about The Satanic Temple, visit <https://thesatanictemple.com/>.