

For Immediate Release:

The Satanic Temple Sues Indiana to Protect Members' Abortion Rights.

Temple argues that abortion restrictions violate its members' religious and property rights, unconstitutionally discriminate against certain groups, and represent involuntary servitude in violation of the 13th Amendment.

SALEM, MA — In response to the State of Indiana's post-*Dobbs* abortion ban going into effect on September 15th, 2022, The Satanic Temple (TST) has filed a lawsuit to protect its members' access to abortion. Indiana's new regulations only provide exceptions for serious health risks, lethal fetal anomalies, and instances where pregnancy results from rape or incest, but not for religious beliefs. While several states adopted bans before *Dobbs* that went into effect, since its passage in August, Indiana is the first to issue an abortion ban following the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*. Indiana's law also blocks abortion clinics from performing abortions, even in those limited cases.

"It's unconscionable for a state ranked so poorly for its maternal mortality rate to be creating further barriers for people to access necessary healthcare," noted TST Director of Campaign Operations Erin Helian. "Restricting abortions to hospitals is unnecessary and unsafe and will likely discourage those who seek legal abortions from gaining them due to the increased difficulty."

TST's legal case against Indiana's ban is founded on four arguments. First, in conjunction with similar suits filed in other states like Texas, TST argues that restricting its members' access to abortion infringes their religious rights to participate in their Satanic Abortion Ritual. Second, TST claims that in cases where someone does not consent to becoming pregnant, the state forcing them to proceed with their pregnancy represents the unconstitutional seizure of their property -- in this case, their uterus, without compensation. Third, forced pregnancy requires the pregnant person to engage in involuntary servitude in violation of the 13th Amendment because the state is compelling them to provide safety, nutrition, and other services against their will.

Lastly, TST argues that by treating those who become pregnant unintentionally as different from those who become pregnant through rape, incest, or in vitro fertilization, the state unconstitutionally discriminates against the former class. In other words, the state has created a class of people who are discriminated against for choosing to engage in protected sex since abortion that results from protected sex is criminalized, while abortions resulting from in vitro fertilization, rape, or incest are not.

"We believe securing our members' access to abortion to be of the utmost importance," added Helian. "Forcing people to go through pregnancy when they do not choose to is blatantly an overreach of these extremist officials' religious dogmatism into politics, and TST will not allow that to stand."

About The Satanic Temple

The Satanic Temple, the 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/>.