

Our Voice

— MONTHLY —

October 30, 2024

Our **Voices** Matter. Our **Families** Matter.
Our **Careers** Matter. Our **Education** Matters.
Our **Lives** Matter.

Lynn Fitch



A Message from Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch

Two years ago, I launched The Empowerment Project, a five-pillar policy initiative to empower women and ensure that they have the tools, resources, and opportunities that empower them. The support for this agenda has been remarkable. Since launching The Empowerment Project, the Mississippi Legislature has passed nearly a dozen of these priorities.

Earlier this month, I testified before the Senate Study Group on Women, Children, and Families to discuss The Empowerment Project and provide a preview of my legislative priorities in the 2025 Session. It was an honor to join Senator Nicole Boyd, who chairs the Study Group, and her colleagues to deliver a strategic plan on how we can help women and families across the state achieve their very best tomorrow.

In the coming weeks, I will unveil my full 2025 Legislative Agenda to continue our work supporting families across our State. You can read a preview of it in my full testimony [here](#) or watch a video of the hearing [here](#). We have made a lot of progress, but the work to support women and their children with this Empowerment Project agenda is only just beginning. I appreciate your being part of this movement!

May God Bless You,



Testifying before the Senate Study Group on Women, Children, and Families on October 2, 2024

AG Fitch in the News

Magnolia Tribune: Advocates Push to Expand Existing Services for Women and Children in Mississippi

“The bottom line is, for far too long women have borne the financial obligation of their children. Of the 6 million parents in the state that are owed child support, not even half have received full payment. So, those mothers, primarily, did not receive full payment for their children from the fathers, from the non-custodian. That in itself is a very heavy lift,” **Fitch elaborated.** “To put it in reality, that’s the difference from a child who might have a good dinner at night or a child that goes to bed hungry.”

Mississippi Today: AG Urges Lawmakers to Enact Paid Maternity Leave for State Employees

There are around 85,000 state employees – including public school teachers and staff and faculty from public universities and colleges – and tens of thousands of Mississippi women could benefit from legislation offering paid maternity leave. It’s a critical workforce issue, [**Attorney General Lynn] Fitch said** in response to a question from Sen. Nicole Boyd, R-Oxford, and it could be the deciding factor for someone choosing between a private sector job and a public sector job. “This is a great tool, a great resource, to have these women in public service and to keep them there,” she said.



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