



The Empowerment Project

ATTORNEY GENERAL LYNN FITCH

April 30, 2026

A Note from AG Lynn Fitch

Last week, I was honored to gather with partners, Children's Advocacy Centers of Mississippi, Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault to honor those who help victims of crime recover and become survivors as part of the annual Attorney General's Office Outstanding Service to Crime Victims Awards Ceremony. This year's honorees are:

- **Deputy Martin Shields, Jr.** (posthumously), Hinds County Sheriff's Department
- **David M. Spence**, District Victim Assistance Coordinator and Investigator, District Attorney's Office, Second Circuit Court District of Mississippi
- **Rebekah Reed**, Director of Operations, S.A.F.E., Inc.
- **Deedra Hughes**, Assistant Director, Mississippi Forensics Laboratory

In addition, we presented Excellence in Advocacy for Human Trafficking Victims to nine organizations for their work with victims of trafficking. These organizations include [this year's recipients of grants](#) from the Victims of Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Fund. The 2026 honorees are:

- **Center for Violence Prevention**
- **Domestic Abuse Family Shelter**
- **Easterseals Mississippi**
- **Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence**
- **Hope Community Collective**
- **Mississippi Coalition Against Human Trafficking**
- **Southern Christian Services**
- **Southwest Mississippi Children's Advocacy Center**
- **Sunnybrook Children's Home**

Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate these incredible individuals and organizations that selflessly walk alongside people on their darkest days and offer a beacon of hope.

May God Bless You,

SHARE ON SOCIAL

This month, my office conducted two human trafficking operations and recovered a total of 10 victims who can now start the pathway to being survivors.

Operation United Front took place in Jackson, Mississippi, and resulted in the recovery of 7 victims and 2 arrests. We were excited to have Compass Connections, the new administrator of the National Human Trafficking Hotline, observe how our law enforcement officers and victim service providers work together to keep our communities safe.

My office also participated in a national human trafficking operation, covering cities in 30 states, including Biloxi, Mississippi. During Operation Coast to Coast, we recovered 3 victims and made 4 arrests. We are so grateful for our local, state, and federal partners who joined us for both operations this month.



WHAT WE'RE READING

WJTV - Children's of Mississippi PICU earns top nursing honor

The Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Children's of Mississippi was awarded the Pediatric Nurse Excellence Diamond Award. This is the highest distinction presented by the Society of Pediatric Nurses.

According to officials, the recognition highlights the unit's sustained commitment to excellence in pediatric critical care, teamwork and patient and family-centered care, and reflects the dedication of caregivers across the organization.

WLBT - Mississippi passes new law targeting online safety for children

Mississippi is adding another layer of protection for kids online. Gov. Tate Reeves has signed the Keeping Kids Safe Online Act into law.

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The law is set to take effect on July 1. Attorney General Lynn Fitch's office provided the following statement:

“General Fitch is grateful for the Legislature’s continued interest in prioritizing the mental and physical well-being of children in an increasingly dangerous online environment. It is one of the Attorney General’s key priorities, and we are in court both defending the Walker Montgomery Act and on offense, suing and investigating more than half a dozen of the biggest of Big Tech companies. In fact, in February, we were in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals defending the Walker Montgomery Act and in March, we were in state court against TikTok. In addition, earlier this month, we rolled out the latest resource to help parents and children navigate safely online – Tips for Online Gaming, which we developed with the Children’s Advocacy Centers. You can find that and the others we have created on our #BeAwareBeforeYouShare page, along with the heartbreaking interview with Walker Montgomery’s father.”



ATTORNEY GENERAL LYNN FITCH IN THE NEWS

WLOX - Human trafficking sting leads to 4 arrests, 3 victims rescued in Biloxi

Law enforcement officers in South Mississippi participated in Operation Coast to Coast, a national human trafficking investigation spanning 30 states and including over 250 law enforcement agencies.

In Biloxi, the operation led to four arrests and the rescue of three victims. Several agencies collaborated with the Human Trafficking Task Force under the Attorney General’s Office.

“My office is committed to taking criminals who traffic people off our streets and equally committed to setting victims on the road to recovery,” said **Attorney General Lynn Fitch**. “Developing partnerships with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies both within Mississippi and across the country is a priority for the Mississippi Attorney General’s Office, and we are proud to be a part of a network of dedicated law enforcement agencies working to end human trafficking.”

Darkhorse Press - AG Lynn Fitch and Coalition of AGs Support Rule to Hold PBMs Accountable

Today, **Attorney General Lynn Fitch** joined a bipartisan coalition of 45 attorneys general in submitting a comment letter supporting a proposed U.S. Department of Labor (Department) rule that would require greater transparency from pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) that service employer-funded health plans covered under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

“PBMs have taken from the health care economy for far too long without giving back,” said **Attorney General Lynn Fitch**. “It is past time that there is accountability and an increase in transparency. I am proud to join my colleagues as we stand with consumers and community health providers to prevent PBMs from taking advantage of Mississippians.”

WLBT - Mississippi AG awards nearly \$1.5M for human trafficking victim services

Attorney General Lynn Fitch announced nearly \$1.5 million in grants to nine organizations that help human trafficking victims access services and rebuild their

lives.

The awards bring the total distributed for trafficking victim services to \$11 million since the Legislature created the Victims of Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Fund in 2020.

“Working together, we can put an end to human trafficking in our state,” **Fitch** said, thanking lawmakers for funding and the committee for overseeing awards.

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