

May 22, 2026

## A Note from AG Lynn Fitch

Last week, my office partnered with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Children and Families Assistant Secretary Alex Adams, HHS Inspector General T. March Bell, and Commissioner of Child Protection Services Andrea Sanders to launch Operation Hope, a new multidisciplinary effort focused on locating and recovering missing foster children. Through this operation, 13 children were safely located, connected with support services, and brought to safety.

During the first Trump Administration, HHS launched Project Hope in Kansas and Missouri, successfully locating 42 missing youth. Now, under President Donald Trump's second administration, the initiative has been relaunched as Operation Hope, with Mississippi selected as the first state to implement this trauma-informed, law enforcement-led approach to finding and recovering vulnerable children before predators can exploit them.

We are proud that Mississippi was chosen to help lead this effort. From the earliest stages of planning through last week's execution of the operation, our goal was not only to locate vulnerable youth across our state, but also to build a model that can be replicated nationwide. There are children all across this country living without hope, but through partnerships like these, we can show them they matter, they are valued, and they deserve a future filled with hope.



May God Bless You,



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## SHARE ON SOCIAL

Mississippi is committed to both empowering women and promoting life. And we are blessed with caring organizations and volunteers who walk alongside women with support, love, and understanding. I invite you to join us in showing a little extra love to these centers and the women they support by participating in a virtual baby shower for pregnancy centers all across Mississippi. Visit [www.attorneygenerallynnfitch.com/virtualbabyshower](http://www.attorneygenerallynnfitch.com/virtualbabyshower) to learn more.



The graphic features a green and white checkered border. At the top, two cartoon chickens are shown, one holding a pink balloon. The text "VIRTUAL Baby Shower" is written in a mix of green and brown fonts. Below this, a message reads: "Let's come together to celebrate and support the incredible moms across Mississippi who deserve to feel *seen, supported and loved.*" Three buttons labeled "Shop", "Give", and "Impact" are arranged horizontally. Below the buttons, the text "Wish List Links" is followed by a paragraph: "To view wish lists from local pregnancy centers and organizations serving moms and families in need, visit [attorneygenerallynnfitch.com/virtualbabyshower](http://attorneygenerallynnfitch.com/virtualbabyshower)". At the bottom, it says "In Partnership With" next to the logo of the Mississippi Department of Health.



## WHAT WE'RE READING

### **Magnolia Tribune - Mississippi Dept. of Health expanding substance use disorder treatment statewide**

The Mississippi State Department of Health is now expanding access to substance use disorder treatment statewide after success of a novel pilot program.

“This work reflects a simple principle: Substance use disorder care should be available earlier, closer to home, and as part of normal health care, not only after a person reaches crisis,” said Dr. Dan Edney, MSDH Executive Director and State Health Officer. “Mississippi is showing what is possible when clinical leadership, public health infrastructure, and technology are aligned around patients.”

The program began as a pilot within six counties but now is offered across all 82 counties in Mississippi. MSDH is also exploring the possibility of providing this care in-home in the future to make it more flexible and accessible.

### **Fox News - America's child care crisis needs more parental freedom — not more Washington control**

For millions of American families, child care has become one of the defining affordability challenges of modern life. In communities across the country, the cost of care now rivals a mortgage payment or in-state college tuition. Parents are delaying having children or cobbling together unreliable arrangements simply because they cannot find affordable care that fits their family's needs.

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At the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), we believe child care policy should empower families, not dictate choices to them. Parents should be free to choose the care arrangement that works best for their children and not be limited to government-preferred options.

That support should include the full suite of options including child care centers, home-based providers, faith-based programs, care from relatives, or having one parent stay home with young children. Flexibility matters because America is a large country. What works for families in rural Idaho may not work for families in Philadelphia.

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And when paired with broader pro-family policies — including an expanded child tax credit and stronger incentives for employer-supported child care — we can begin to reverse the affordability crisis confronting working parents. That is what a pro-family agenda looks like.



## ATTORNEY GENERAL LYNN FITCH IN THE NEWS

### **WLBT - Two people sentenced in separate child desertion cases**

Two people recently received their sentences in connection to two separate child desertion cases in Mississippi, **Attorney General Lynn Fitch** announced Wednesday.

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“Parents have a legal and moral obligation to provide for their children, and we will continue to hold those who fail to do so accountable,” **Fitch** said in a statement. “I am grateful for our AGO prosecutors and investigators, and partners at the Mississippi Department of Human Services who are committed to ensuring that Mississippi’s children receive the support they deserve.”

### **WXXV - Fentanyl strike force results in dozens of arrests, ICE detainers**

**Attorney General Lynn Fitch** announced the completion of two recent fentanyl strike force operations in Mississippi.

The operations happened in Meridian on May 7 and Corinth on April 30. The effort resulted in 61 ICE detainers and 23 arrests.

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**Fitch** says the strike force is focused on taking dangerous criminals off the streets and improving safety in Mississippi communities.

### **The Yazoo Herald - AG Fitch Cohosts 16th Annual Fallen Officers Memorial Candlelight Vigil**

**Attorney General Lynn Fitch** marked National Police Week by hosting the 16th Annual Fallen Officers Memorial Candlelight Vigil with the Mississippi Association of

Chiefs of Police and the Mississippi Sheriffs' Association to honor Mississippi's fallen heroes and recognize their families for the sacrifices they have made.

"It is a privilege to recognize Mississippi's dedicated men and women in uniform for their service to our State," **said Attorney General Lynn Fitch.** "This vigil is a reminder of the lives of the heroes who have fallen - the men and women who spent their days in service to their friends, neighbors, and even strangers, always with a sense of purpose, duty, and honor. We will always remember their sacrifice."

### **Magnolia Tribune - Mississippi expected to receive \$40.9 million in Purdue Pharma opioid settlement**

After a decade of efforts by attorneys general across the nation, the \$7.4 billion opioid settlement with Purdue Pharma was deemed legally effective earlier this month.

**Fitch** announced the news on Friday, stating that the owners of Purdue Pharma, the Sackler family, are included in the settlement. She said Mississippi sued the company back in December 2015, with an investigation by all attorneys general nationwide following shortly thereafter. Purdue filed for bankruptcy four years later in 2019.

“The opioid epidemic has claimed far too many lives in Mississippi, leaving behind lasting pain,” **said Attorney General Fitch.** “This settlement is another step toward holding accountable those who played a role in this epidemic and toward healing for many Mississippians who lost loved ones. Together, we can address the harm already done and prevent more senseless deaths.”

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