

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2026

Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary for Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Honorable Todd Blanche
Acting Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 1145
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Secretary Kennedy and Acting Attorney General Blanche,

We write to you today to express deep concern about the growing criminalization of miscarriage across the United States. Since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, prosecutors and law enforcement agencies have increasingly treated pregnancy loss as a potential crime rather than a deeply personal medical tragedy. This trend is growing, and it's harming pregnant people, their families, and communities nationwide.

Miscarriage is extremely common and impacts as many as one in five known pregnancies and one million people each year.¹ Most miscarriages occur in the first trimester, and the majority are managed safely at home.² Although miscarriage is medically routine, for many of our neighbors, it is the worst situation imaginable. No one should have to face the threat of arrest or prosecution on top of their pain.

Pregnancy criminalization isn't hypothetical. It's happening now across the country under a patchwork of outdated, ambiguous, or newly expanded laws. In the first year after the *Dobbs* decision, there were at least 210 criminal charges filed related to pregnancy, pregnancy loss, or birth, the highest number recorded since researchers began tracking these cases.³

Recent cases illustrate the severity of this crisis.

- Nevada recently paid a \$100,000 settlement to a woman who was wrongly convicted under a 1911 manslaughter statute after experiencing a stillbirth.⁴ Her case shows how century old laws that were never intended for modern medical realities are being revived to punish pregnancy loss.

¹ [Miscarriage - Symptoms and causes - Mayo Clinic](#)

² *Id*

³ [Pregnancy as a Crime An Interim Update on the First Two Years After Dobbs](#)

⁴ [‘I Lost a Lot of Hope’: Nevada Pays \\$100K to Woman Convicted for Miscarriage Under 1911 Law](#)

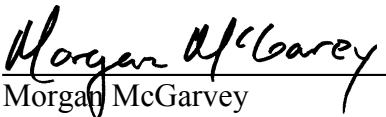
- Georgia law enforcement arrested and criminally charged a woman after she experienced a miscarriage. After public outcry about the case, the district attorney dropped the charges, saying the case was not 'legally sustainable and not in the interest of justice.'⁵ Her case, like others, demonstrates how laws have been misapplied and weaponized to criminalize and investigate miscarriage.⁶
- Fifteen states continue to maintain criminal bans related to “concealing” a pregnancy loss.⁷

These cases are not isolated. They show a national pattern where miscarriage is treated as intentional, and individuals are subjected to criminal investigation and prosecution for events that are unavoidable and naturally occurring. This pattern causes a climate of fear. Patients are afraid to seek medical care, physicians are afraid to provide it, and families are caught in the crosshairs of politicized enforcement.

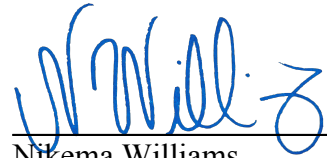
We ask that you take immediate action to prevent pregnancy criminalization and the prosecution of pregnancy outcomes like miscarriage. No one should be afraid to go to jail during what could be one of the most devastating moments of their life. No family should face police interrogation when experiencing a health crisis. And no community should be forced to navigate the consequences of laws that punish instead of supporting health and dignity.

We urge you to act swiftly to make sure anybody experiencing a miscarriage is treated with compassion and not criminal suspicion.

Sincerely,



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



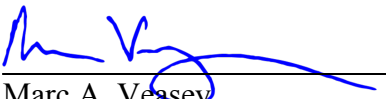
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress

⁵ [Charges dropped against US woman found unconscious after miscarriage | Georgia | The Guardian](#)

⁶ [Ohio woman sues hospital and police after she was arrested over miscarriage](#)

⁷ [After-Pregnancy-Loss.pdf](#)

Veronica Escobar

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Member of Congress