

DEMOCRACY FORWARD



IN FOCUS

States Attorneys General: Threats from the Right and How We're Fighting Back

American democracy is at an inflection point.

Across the country, right-wing attorneys general are using the courts to attack our rights, stoke culture wars, and undermine democracy.

They've waged an all out legal assault on people-centered policymaking, including on issues related to pandemic response, climate change, immigration, taxes, LGBTQ+ rights, abortion rights, and workers' rights.

And they've sought to develop legal precedent, including at the Supreme Court, that undermines the ability of the federal government to work on behalf of all people.

**Democracy Forward was built
for this moment.**

How we're fighting back

Democracy Forward is working creatively and strategically to push back on the harmful agendas of right-wing state AGs, employing a full range of innovative legal and communications tools in states across the country.

Workers' Rights

- On behalf of leading workers' organizations we urged a federal court to uphold federal protections for minimum wage restaurant workers. AGs from across the country, including in OK, SC, MT, LA, Ark, MS, UT, AL, TX, have sided with special interests in their effort to reverse workers' protections.
- We are defending a \$15 minimum wage for federal contract workers against three separate lawsuits from right-wing AGs in AZ, AL, AR, GA, ID, IN, LA, MS, MO, MT, NE, OK, SC, TX and other actors across the country. On behalf of labor unions, worker advocates, and economic justice organizations, we are urging these courts to reject efforts to lower wages for these essential workers.

Health Care

- We are supporting all Americans' right to emergency care against attempts by AGs in states like TX and ID to deprive pregnant people of such care. We are ensuring that the nation's leading professional organizations of physicians and public health experts have a voice in court.
- We protected children's health by defending COVID-19 protections in schools, representing the nation's leading children's health experts in more than 25 cases across the country. Our team has been part of important wins upholding evidence-based policies in California, Iowa, and Tennessee.

Sustainable Communities

- We made workplaces safer through representing 16 leading medical and patient health organizations at the Supreme Court. We opposed attempts by special interests and right-wing state AGs to undermine federal vaccine protections for health care workers, contributing to the Court's decision in upholding the standards.
- We've countered misguided arguments by right-wing AGs in opposing ESG, including by responding to their attacks on the SEC's proposed climate disclosure rule and its approval of NASDAQ's board diversity disclosure rule.

Transparency

- We initiated an investigation into the Louisiana AG's role in the Bond Commission's delay of funding for a New Orleans flood control project. The Bond Commission delayed the approval at the request of the AG in response to New Orleans' position related to the enforcement of the state abortion ban.
- We are conducting a public records investigation in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Missouri, Ohio, South Carolina, and West Virginia to investigate state backed misinformation after Republican AGs in these states sent a letter to DirecTV, urging them to reverse their decision to drop OANN citing "viewpoint discrimination."