# Federal Judge Rules Against Alabama Attorney General's Attempt to Halt Out-of-State Abortions



Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall has taken steps to prevent women in Alabama from traveling to other states for legal abortions. After the Supreme Court's 2022 decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, which overturned Roe v. Wade, Marshall warned that assisting Alabama women in obtaining abortions out of state could be considered a "criminal conspiracy" under Alabama law. However, a federal judge, Myron H. Thompson, recently ruled against Marshall's efforts.

Judge Thompson, appointed by President Jimmy Carter, issued a ruling on May 6, 2024, stating that Marshall's threat violated constitutional rights, including the right to travel and freedom of speech. The judge emphasized that Alabama could not indirectly ban out-of-state abortions by prosecuting those who aid in the process. This ruling upholds the constitutional right to interstate travel and free speech, setting a legal precedent that state-level restrictions cannot extend beyond state borders.

Marshall's stance reflects ongoing debates and legislative actions surrounding abortion rights in the United States. The ruling highlights the tension between state and federal laws in the post-Dobbs era, as states with restrictive abortion laws explore ways to extend their prohibitions beyond their jurisdictions.

In summary, the federal court's decision reinforces the constitutional protections of travel and speech while limiting the reach of state-level antiabortion measures beyond state lines.