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# Oklahoma judge halts abortion reversal law



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**Christine Stanwood**

Reporter



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The law was signed by Gov. Kevin Stitt earlier this year. The state argued it should be the patient's choice whether they want to go forward or change their mind after taking the first or second abortion pill.

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The law was supposed to take effect Nov. 1. Judge Don Andrews pushed it back, wanting to hear more arguments during a trial. Andrews told the courtroom this case is different because it challenges the First Amendment.

The Center for Reproductive Rights argued on behalf of Tulsa Women's Reproductive Clinic and Dr. Alan Braid. They argue Senate Bill 6-14 is a First Amendment violation.

"The bottom line is the state should not be forcing physicians to mislead patients into using these made-up medical terms to confuse patients," said Gail Deady, with the Center for Reproductive Rights.

Attorney General Mike Hunter released a statement on the temporary injunction, saying:

"The judge didn't rule on the merits of the case and only decided to retain the status quo moving forward, pending more evidence. The state remains committed to defending this law that requires doctors to inform women they can opt to reverse the process of a medical abortion."

"The state made a lot of speculative claims today about what doctors are allegedly saying to patients and there's simply no evidence of that," Deady said.

The plaintiffs argued the law would force doctors to tell patients that medication abortion can be "reversed" which they say is a false claim, unsupported by scientific evidence.



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They also argued that physicians can be charged with a felony if this information is not repeatedly relayed to the patient.

The state filed a brief in response to Wednesday's action, requesting the court deny the plaintiffs' motion for a temporary injunction.

A trial date has not yet been set regarding the temporary injunction.

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## **OKC Zoo announces \$10,000 donation to support Australian wildlife affected by devastating fires**



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## KOCO Staff

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — The Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden will contribute \$10,000 in emergency conservation funds to support the care and long-term recovery of Australian wildlife affected by the historic bushfires, officials with the zoo announced Thursday.

“During this time of heartbreaking devastation, the Oklahoma City Zoo stands with our friends and colleagues in Australia,” said Dr. Dwight Lawson, OKC Zoo executive director/CEO. “This crisis reminds us just how fragile and precious life is. Our goal of preserving wildlife and wild places isn’t limited by our state’s or nation’s geographic boundaries. We have a global mission that crosses every border and ocean.”

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According to zoo officials, since the wildfires began in September 2019, an estimated one billion animals have perished, with many of the surviving animals injured and displaced to regions in which they cannot naturally survive.

“As a conservation organization, the Oklahoma City Zoo raises and distributes funds to aid wildlife conservation here in Oklahoma and around the world,” said Dr. Rebecca Snyder, OKC Zoo curator of conservation and science. “This week we are contributing \$10,000 to an organization that is in the field helping with the wildlife crisis in Australia.”

The zoo is providing \$10,000 from its Round Up for Conservation Emergency Fund to the Bushfire Emergency Wildlife Fund spearheaded by Zoos Victoria located in Victoria, Australia in support of Australian wildlife relief, zoo officials said. The donation will be made through the Association of Zoo Veterinary Technicians, which will match contributions up to \$5,000.



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Plus, female orangutan Negara, 26, came to the OKC Zoo from Perth Zoo in 2016.

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