



IDAHOANS UNITED *for* 
Women & Families

August 2022 Polling Memo:
Research & Findings in the Wake of Idaho's Trigger Ban



OPINION
RESEARCH
& STRATEGY

Executive Summary

In the wake of the Supreme Court’s landmark Dobbs decision, Idaho’s abortion trigger ban went into effect on August 25, 2022, criminalizing and making abortion illegal in Idaho with few and narrow exceptions. A poll conducted by FM3 Research revealed that—though Idaho voters’ feelings towards abortion in general are complex—the severe restrictions imposed by the legislature are broadly and emphatically unpopular.

Not only do 3 in 5 Idahoans believe that abortion should be legal in some or almost all cases, but findings also indicate that:

- A broad majority (63%) believe abortion should be a decision between a woman, her family, and her doctor...
- ...and even more (69%) believe we should not impose our views of abortion on others.
- An overwhelming majority (82%) believe abortion should be an option when the mother’s life is at risk...
- ...and even more (89%) support the right to medical and sexual privacy.
- Sixty-three percent (63%) of Idahoans oppose felony criminal charges for a healthcare provider who performs an abortion.

Broad, ideologically diverse majorities of Idahoans trust and value the expertise of doctors and nurses when it comes to setting policy and making decisions around sensitive medical issues like abortion. In fact, politicians (including Idaho’s governor and Idaho State Legislators) were least trusted regarding abortion decisions.

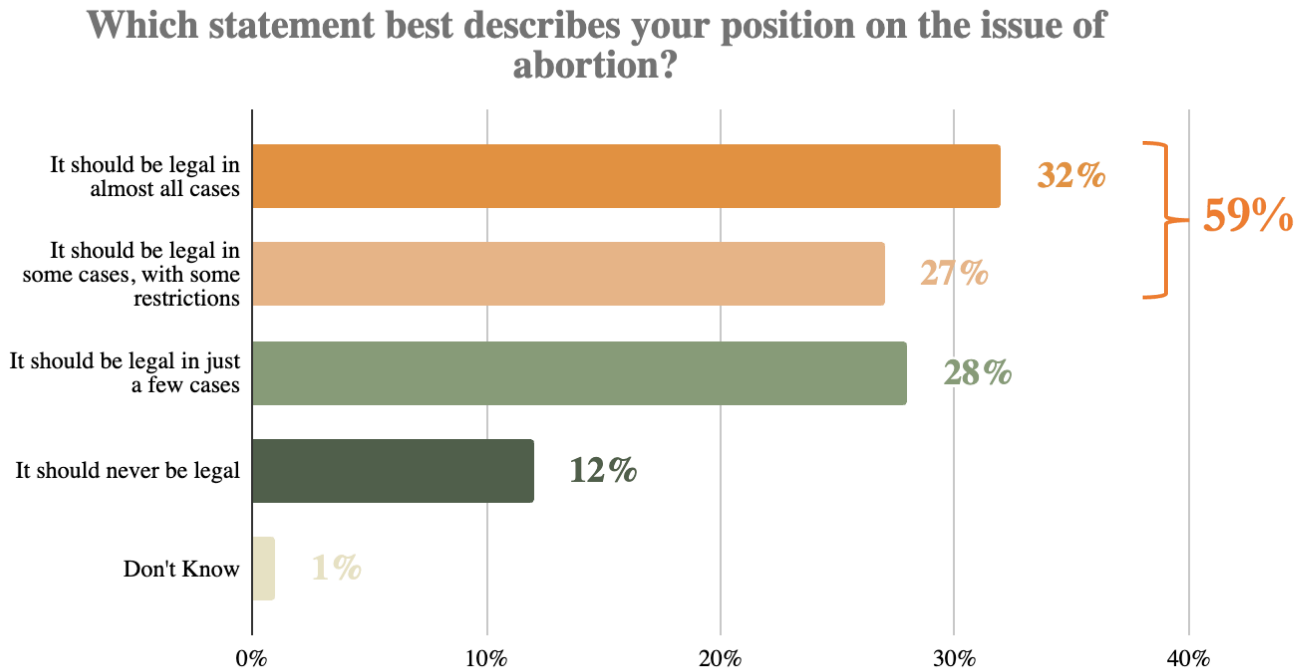
Survey Methodology

Dates	August 13-18, 2022
Survey Type	Dual-Mode Voter Survey
Research Population	Likely November 2022 Idaho Voters
Sample Size	n=603
Margin of Error	±4.0% at the 95% Confidence Level
Contact Methods	Telephone Calls, Email Invitations, Text Invitations
Data Collection Modes	Telephone Interviews, Online Interviews

Three in five Idahoans believe abortion should be legal in *some* or *almost all* cases.

Polling revealed that the vast majority of Idahoans (3 in 5) believed that abortion should be legal in almost all cases (32%) or legal in some cases with some restrictions (27%.) Significantly, only 12% of Idahoans support a full and total ban on abortion with no legal exceptions.

FIGURE 1:

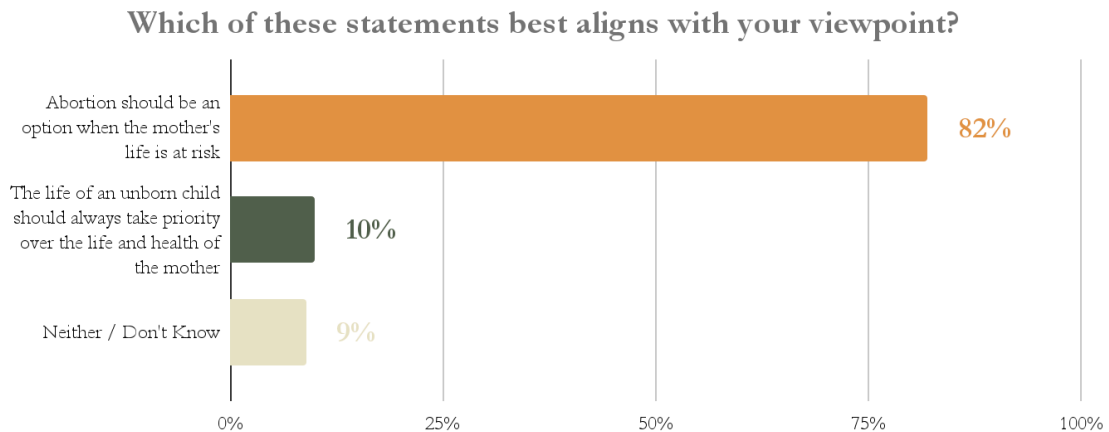


The pro-choice/pro-life binary falls short in accurately capturing the more complex views of Idahoans on abortion. Polling reveals a preference for more nuanced positions, which indicates that the majority of people don't strictly adhere to the absolute stances implied by the binary labels. It suggests that a more refined framework would be useful to fully understand, interpret, discuss and report on the varied perspectives on abortion within the community.

By overwhelming majority, Idahoans believe abortion should always be an option when the mother's life is at risk.

By a stark 72-point margin, 82% of Idaho voters believe abortion should be an option when the mother's life is at risk. Only a slim 10% believe that an unborn child should take priority over the life and health of the mother.

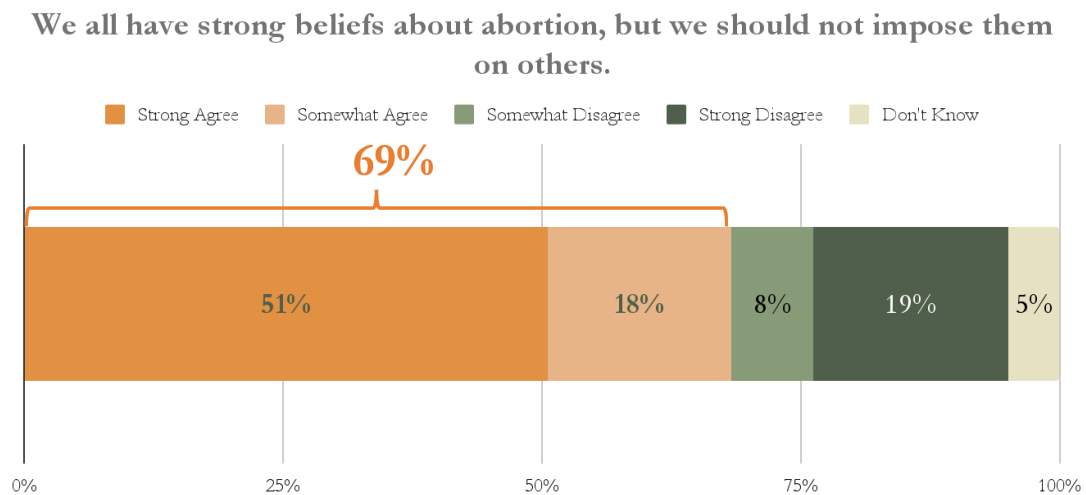
FIGURE 2:



No matter their views on abortion, over two-thirds of Idahoans believe we *should not* impose our views of abortion on others.

An overwhelming majority of Idahoans (69%) believe that, though we all have strong beliefs regarding abortion, we should not impose our views of abortion on others.

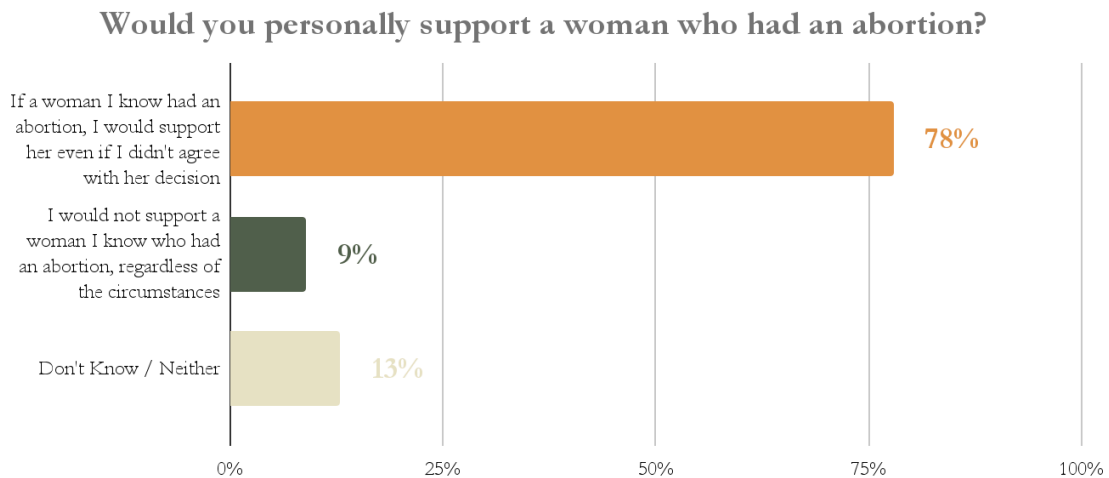
FIGURE 3:



Idahoans would support a woman they know seeking an abortion, even if they don't agree with her decision.

Besides indicating a belief that abortion decisions are personal and private, Idahoans also demonstrated majority support towards women they know who might seek abortion: a staggering 78% of them would offer support for a woman seeking an abortion even if they didn't personally agree with her decision.

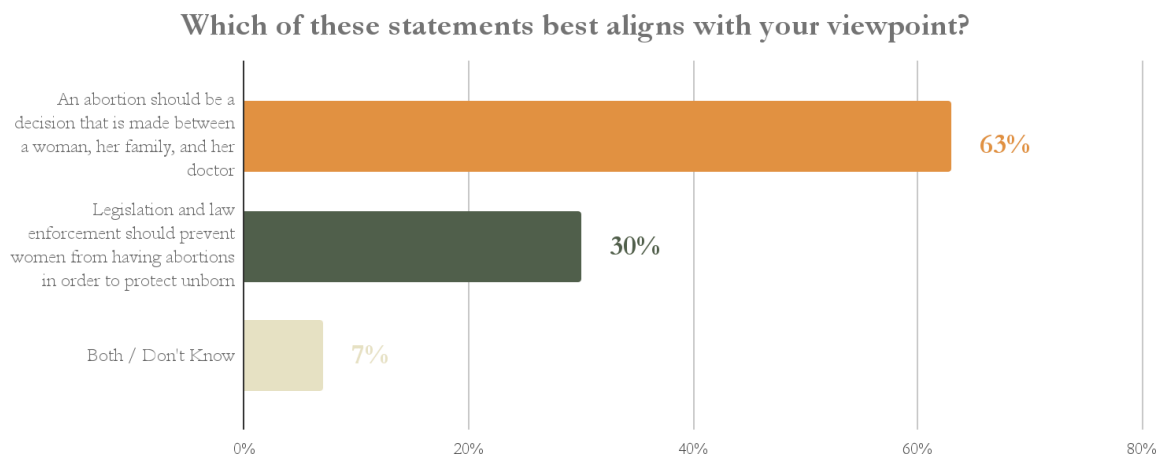
FIGURE 4:



When presented with two statements, 63% of Idahoans believe abortion should be between a woman, her family, and doctor...

... while only 30% believe that “legislation and law enforcement should prevent women from having abortions in order to protect unborn babies.”

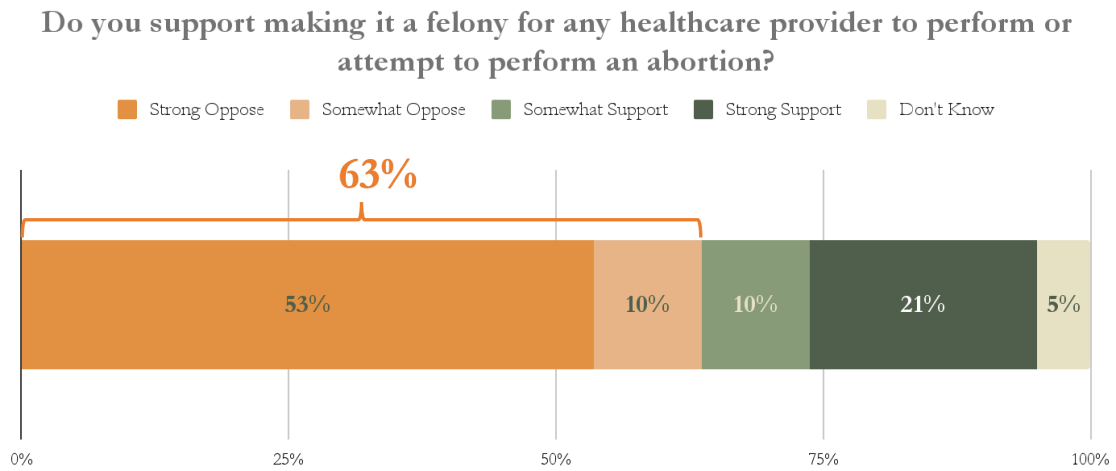
FIGURE 5:



Felony criminal charges for doctors are supported by only a minority of Idahoans.

Sixty-three percent (63%) of Idahoans oppose felony charges for a healthcare provider who performs an abortion, and only 21% strongly support a criminalization policy.

FIGURE 6:



Regarding abortion decisions, Idahoans trust nurses and doctors the most...and legislators the least.

When presented with a battery of persons and organizations who might be involved in abortion decisions or setting policy around reproductive care, Idahoans ranked healthcare professionals like nurses and doctors the most trustworthy. Notably, 67% of respondents also indicated that pregnant women and women who have experienced an unplanned pregnancy were very or somewhat trustworthy, ranking them just below medical professionals. No politician was ranked as trustworthy by a majority of Idahoans, and Idahoans were most suspicious of Idaho legislators, ranking them as least trustworthy.

FIGURE 7a:

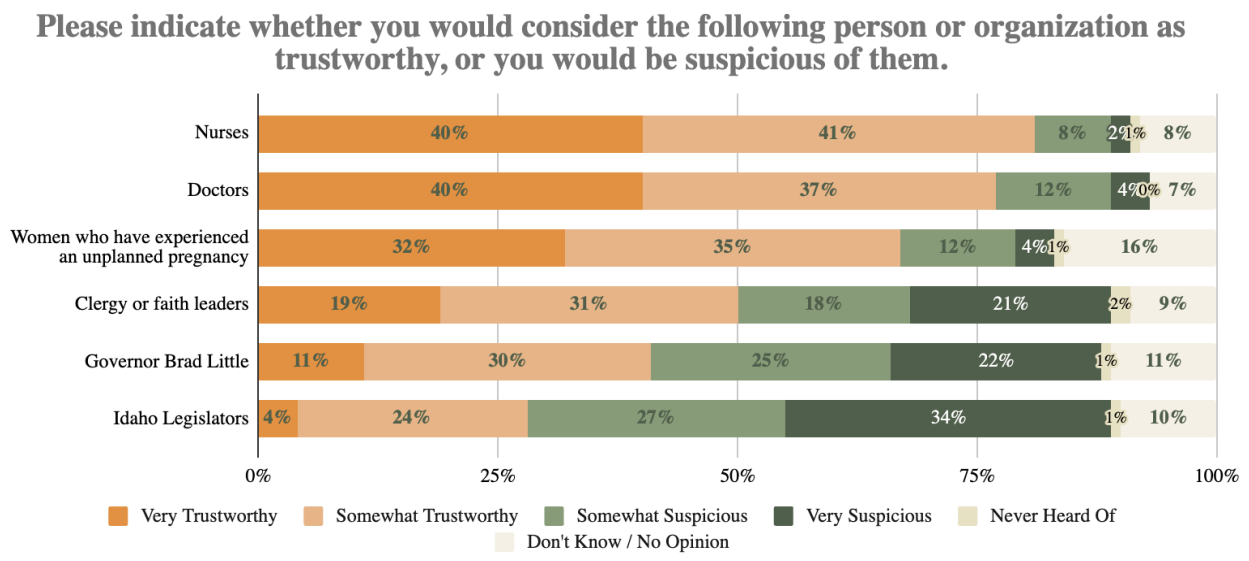


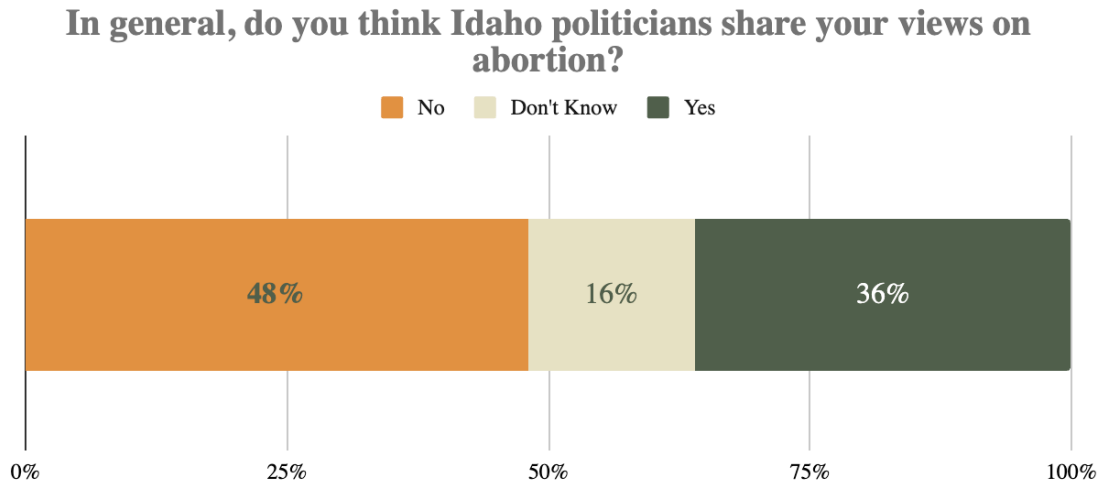
FIGURE 7b:

Person / Organization:	Total Trust	Total Suspicious
Nurses	81%	10%
Doctors	77%	16%
Women who have experienced an unplanned pregnancy	67%	16%
Clergy or faith leaders	50%	39%
Governor Brad Little	41%	47%
Idaho Legislators	28%	61%

Most Idahoans think Idaho politicians don't share their views.

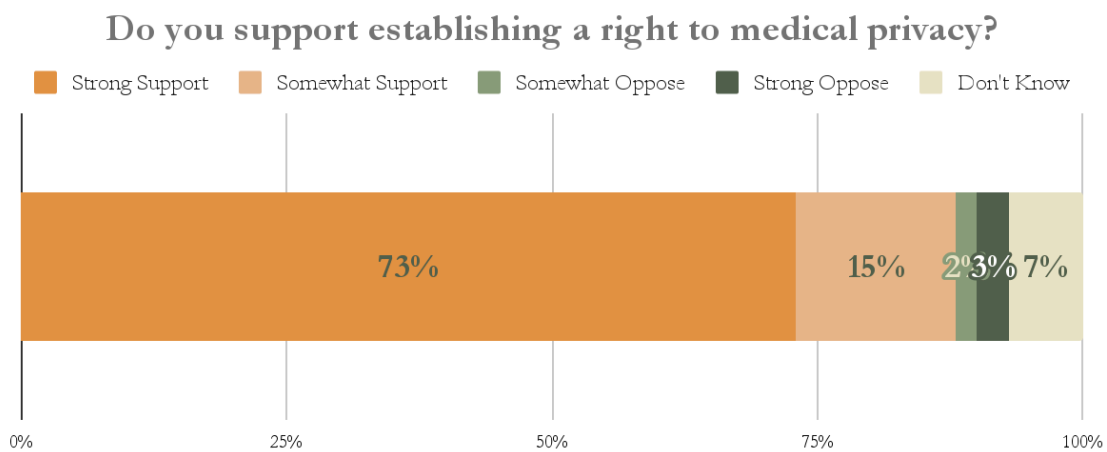
Unsurprisingly given respondents' attitudes towards the need for medical privacy and the current Idaho laws, only 36% of Idahoans felt that Idaho politicians shared or represented their views on abortion.

FIGURE 8:



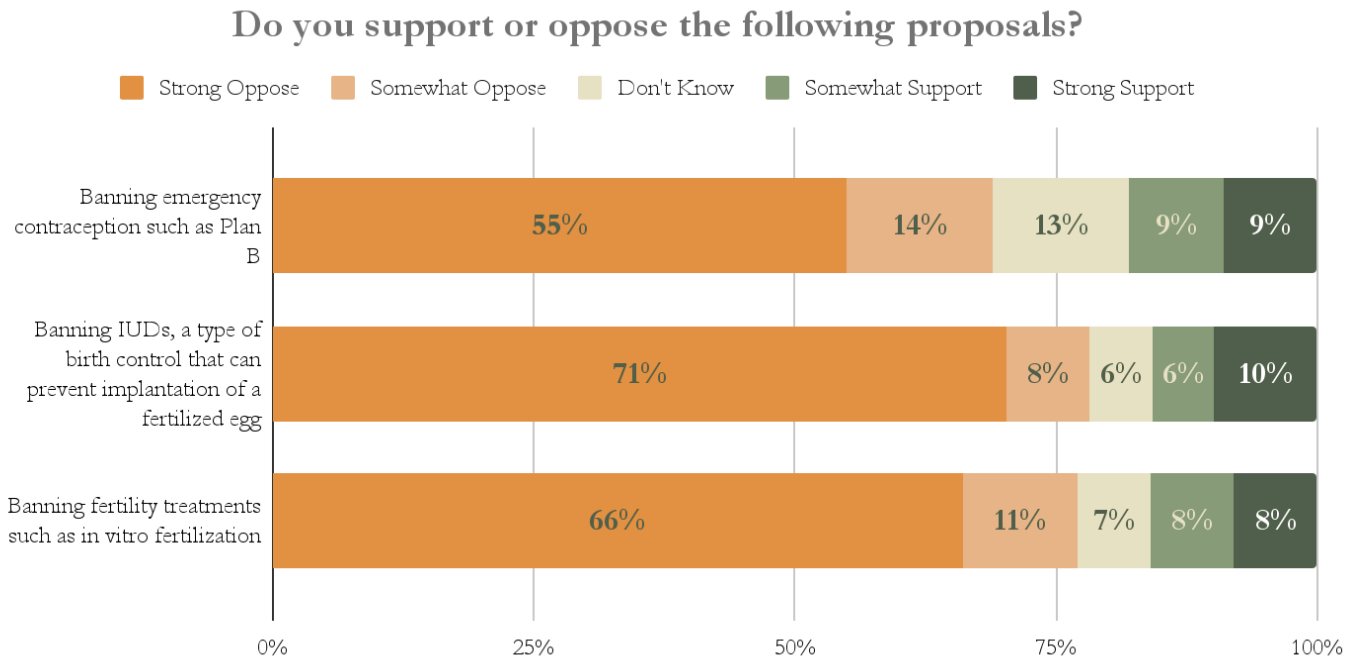
Additionally, Idahoans overwhelmingly support the right to medical privacy...

FIGURE 9:



...and strongly oppose banning contraception and IVF.

FIGURE 10:



About IDUWF

Launched in 2024, Idahoans United for Women & Family (IDUWF) is a 501(c)(4) organization based in Idaho committed to advocating for and restoring access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare while promoting the well-being of women, children, and families in Idaho.