



University of Idaho

TO: University of Idaho Students and Employees

FROM: Scott Green, President
Torrey Lawrence, Provost and Executive Vice President

DATE: Oct. 5, 2022

SUBJECT: Clarifying Points About State Abortion Law

On September 23 you received a memo titled “Guidance on Abortion Laws” from U of I’s Office of General Counsel. The memo quickly took on a life of its own with misinformation, confusion and emotion leading the conversation. This included those outside our university using this occasion to advance their own political agendas. This is, without a doubt, a divisive and complicated topic.

The Idaho laws, brought to the forefront by the overturn of Roe v. Wade, are indeed complex, unclear and written to be punitive for state employees. We cannot make any guarantees about how the state will choose to enforce them. But, to clarify where the university stands, please understand:

1. No university policies have been added or changed as a result of the [No Public Funds for Abortion Act](#) passed by the Idaho legislature.
2. Penalties of the law are criminal in nature. The university does not impose criminal charges nor conduct criminal investigations.

3. There are no changes to our academic freedom policy. The university supports faculty leading discussions on any related educational topic within the classroom.
4. There is no change to student access to contraceptives. Condoms continue to be available in restroom dispensers and campus offices. The Vandal Health Clinic and its sister clinics operated by Gritman Medical Center will continue to meet the reproductive health needs of all students and employees.

More nuanced guidance in the form of an FAQ is being developed to help you understand our state's laws.

As Vandals, we remain united in our mission of providing access to an affordable education, illuminating and elevating our students and conducting research that matters to Idaho industry. That work does not end when we face challenges. Let's not forget who we are. The Vandal family is resilient, supportive and kind to one another.

Go Vandals!

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