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# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Attorney General Anthony Brown’s Statement on Washington Court’s Order Today Confirming Full Protections for Mifepristone Access Remain Intact in Maryland.**

*Federal Judge’s Order Bars Food and Drug Administration from Taking Any Action that Would Reduce Access to Mifepristone in 18 States*

**BALTIMORE, MD (April 13, 2023)** – Today, Judge Thomas O. Rice of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington [issued an order](#) confirming that his injunction protecting access to mifepristone in Maryland and 17 other states remains in full force and effect notwithstanding recent orders by courts in Texas that impose certain restrictions elsewhere.

Yesterday, in an appeal of a separate Texas court ruling, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals issued an order imposing certain restrictions on access to mifepristone. Judge Rice’s order clarifies that those restrictions do not apply in the 18 states that filed a lawsuit in the Eastern District of Washington to preserve and expand access to abortion medication.

“I know developments have been unfolding quickly and have been the source of concern and confusion,” said Attorney General Brown. “What Marylanders need to know is that abortion medication remains available here in our State. I am fighting to preserve and protect your rights to that access, and I will continue to do so. There is too much at stake.”

Led by Washington State’s Attorney General, the lawsuit was also joined by attorneys general from Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Hawaii, Maine, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

On April 7, Judge Rice issued an injunction barring the FDA from “altering the status quo and rights as it relates to the availability of Mifepristone” in the states involved in Washington’s lawsuit. The FDA filed a motion seeking clarification of Judge Rice’s decision in light of a potentially contradictory order from the Northern District of Texas. Judge Rice responded by clarifying that his order applies “irrespective of” the Northern District of Texas or the Fifth Circuit’s rulings in that separate litigation.

The FDA has announced that it will appeal the Fifth Circuit decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2023/041323b.pdf>