

# AG Fitch joins \$573-million settlement with McKinsey & Company for its role in the opioid epidemic

## Mississippi to receive just over 5 million dollars

### Press Release

Attorney General Fitch and a coalition of attorneys general from 47 states, the District of Columbia, and 5 U.S. territories reached a \$573-million settlement with one of the world's largest consulting firms, McKinsey & Company. The settlement resolves investigations into the company's work for opioid companies, helping those companies promote their drugs and profiting from the opioid epidemic they helped create.

"Nearly 60% of drug overdose deaths in Mississippi in 2018 involved opioids. This epidemic is killing our loved ones and our neighbors. It is tearing apart our communities and our families," said Attorney General Lynn Fitch. "This settlement is a step toward holding companies accountable for the role they played in this epidemic and toward healing Mississippi."

The settlement, after payment of costs, is expected to be used to abate problems

caused by opioids in the participating states. Mississippi will receive just over \$5 million from the multistate settlement. This is the first multi-state opioid settlement to result in substantial payment to the states to address the epidemic.

In addition to providing funds to address the crisis, the agreement calls for McKinsey to:

- prepare tens of thousands of its internal documents detailing its work for Purdue Pharma and other opioid

companies for public disclosure online,

- adopt a strict document retention plan, continue its investigation into allegations that two of its partners tried to destroy documents in response to investigations of Purdue Pharma,

- implement a strict ethics code that all partners must agree to each year, and

- stop advising companies on potentially dangerous Schedule II and III narcotics.

The filings describe how McKinsey contributed to the opioid crisis by promoting marketing schemes and consulting services to opioid manufacturers, including OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma, for over a decade. The complaint, filed with the settlement, details how McKinsey advised Purdue

on how to maximize profits from its opioid products, including targeting high-volume opioid prescribers, using specific messaging to get physicians to prescribe more OxyContin to more patients, and circumventing pharmacy restrictions in order to deliver high-dose prescriptions.

The opioid epidemic has led to considerable harm to individuals and communities in Mississippi over the last 20 years, during which time, the rate of overdose deaths involving opioids doubled. Mississippi's per capita rate of painkiller prescriptions is one of the highest in the nation. On an economic level, these deaths—and the impacts on those who have struggled with opioid addiction—have created considerable costs to Mississippi in the form of health care, child welfare, criminal justice, and many other programs needed to address the epidemic. It has also resulted in lost economic opportunity and productivity. On the social level, opioid addiction, abuse, and overdose deaths have torn families apart, damaged relationships, and eroded the social fabric of communities.

The filing is the latest action AG Fitch has taken to combat the opioid epidemic and to hold accountable those who are responsible for creating and fueling the crisis. AG Fitch recently pushed federal regulators to examine progress in the national fight against opioid abuse, authored an op-ed and produced educational materials about the dangers of the opioid epidemic in

Mississippi, and hosted a National Drug Take Back Day program in partnership with the DEA and the Andrew Jackson Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Additional opioid litigation continues as well.

In addition to Mississippi, attorneys general from Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, the District of Columbia, and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands also joined the settlement.

## THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



## Wicker Leads Pro-Life Push in Senate

### Americans Oppose Taxpayer Funding of Abortion

On January 20, my wife and I came at the outset of a new presidential administration that has already proved hostile to the rights of the unborn. The Biden Administration's abortion agenda makes it all the more vital for pro-life Americans to continue speaking out.

ally, came at the outset of a new presidential administration that has already proved hostile to the rights of the unborn. The Biden Administration's abortion agenda makes it all the more vital for pro-life Americans to continue speaking out.

### Tax Dollars Should Never Subsidize Abortion

President Biden has promised to unify the country, but his recent actions on abortion reveal extreme priorities. In one of his first steps as President, Mr. Biden reversed the Mexico City policy, which had blocked taxpayer dollars from funding nonprofit groups that advocate for abortion overseas. This decision showed disregard for the consciences of millions of pro-life taxpayers who are offended by efforts to fund

abortion with their tax dollars.

The President's decision is clearly out of step with an increasing number of Americans. Last year, a Marist poll revealed six out of 10 Americans oppose tax dollars going toward abortion. Many of these individuals identify as pro-choice, but they agree that fellow citizens who are pro-life should not have to bankroll something they find morally abhorrent. Congress has long echoed this reasonable view. For more than 40 consecutive years, lawmakers have passed the Hyde Amendment in annual spending legislation to prevent taxpayer dollars from funding abortion.

I have called on Congress repeatedly over the years to make the Hyde Amendment permanent. I am doing so once again by introducing my No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion bill, which would ban the use of tax dollars for abortion once and for all. I am also supporting legislation to outlaw abortion of unborn babies who are capable of feeling pain. Beyond that, I am pushing hard for

much money you have—and where it's going—is an essential part of managing your finances accurately and successfully.

Believe me, I hear dozens of other excuses, too. You'd be amazed at how many people don't make a budget every month because they think it's "boring." Others claim they can do their budgets in their heads. I don't think so! For a budget to really work, it needs to be something you can track down to the last penny. And if you're married and saying you can do a monthly budget in your head, that means only one of you is involved in the decision making. That's a recipe for disaster in your finances and your relationship.

A budget represents your financial game plan for the upcoming month and years ahead. As Benjamin Franklin said, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail."

—Dave

## DAVE Says

By Dave Ramsey



### Don't let budgeting myths sabotage your finances

Dear Dave, I made a resolution to start following your plan in 2021. I talked to my parents about this, and while they like some parts of your teaching, they don't think living on a budget is necessary if you make good money. They also said budgeting is extremely difficult. Are they right?

your financial journey.

There are lots of myths, and just some bad information, out there where living on a budget is concerned. Making a budget isn't rocket science. If you can do basic math, you can create a budget. Your income minus your outgo needs to equal zero. That's it! You might spend a couple of hours tallying all your expenses when you first start, but the process soon becomes faster and easier. All it takes is a little practice.

If you think doing a budget is only for people who have trouble making ends meet, think again. My wife and I have lived by a written, monthly budget every single month for about 30 years. It doesn't matter whether you're a multi-millionaire, or if you have just \$100 to your name, knowing exactly how

Jensen Dear Jensen,

For whatever reason, I'm afraid your parents are way off base on this one. A lot of people trash talk the idea of budgeting, and make up all kinds of excuses for not living on one. The truth is a written, monthly budget is essential when it comes to beating debt and winning with money—period. It's the map you need to get where you want to go in

legislation to protect vulnerable infants who survive an abortion attempt. There is no excuse for any lawmaker to oppose such a reasonable and humane protection.

### Public Opinion Is Shifting Toward Life

When Roe v. Wade was handed down in 1973, many Americans did not know the full extent of fetal development. But new technology has revealed stunning details inside the womb. Parents are now able to see vivid sonogram images of their pre-born children. Many grandparents, like my wife Gayle and me, have seen the feet, heartbeat, and faces of our young grandchildren waiting to enter the world. More Americans are awakening to the reality that each new life, born and unborn, is precious and worthy of protection.

Twenty-five years ago, 56 percent of Americans identified as pro-choice and 33 percent identified as pro-life. Today, that gap has closed completely, with roughly half of Americans identifying as pro-life. Even more telling is that 81 percent of Americans oppose late-term abortion, and 65 percent oppose abortion in the second trimester. It is clear that Americans want expanded protections for the unborn. I will continue leading the fight in Congress to protect the most vulnerable members of the human family.

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