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Five more states join lawsuit against health reform

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Five more states will join a federal lawsuit, which includes Texas, challenging the newly passed health care reform law.

Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum, who led the suit, said that Indiana, North Dakota, Mississippi, Nevada and Arizona are adding their names to the list of plaintiffs that filed the case on March 23 in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida.

The suit alleges that the new law infringes on the constitutional rights of Americans by mandating they have health care coverage or pay a tax penalty.

The bill requires individuals to obtain insurance coverage, and businesses that employ more than 50 workers would have to provide coverage or pay a \$2,000-a-worker penalty if any of their employees receives government-subsidized coverage on their own.

"The federal health care legislation passed tonight violates the United States Constitution and unconstitutionally infringes upon Texans' individual liberties," Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said after the legislation passed.

"To protect all Texans' constitutional rights, preserve the constitutional framework intended by our nation's founders, and defend our state from further infringement by the federal government, the State of Texas and other states will legally challenge the federal health care legislation."

South Carolina, Nebraska, Texas, Utah, Louisiana, Alabama, Colorado, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Washington, Idaho and South Dakota had previously joined Florida's lawsuit. A hearing is scheduled for April 14.



Bill McCollum

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