

Dec. 29, 2023

ABC NEWS STUDIOS ANNOUNCES 'IMPACT X NIGHTLINE' PRIMETIME SPECIAL 'ON THE BRINK,' REPORTED BY DIANE SAWYER AND RACHEL SCOTT

The One-Hour Primetime Special, Which Explores the Effects of U.S. State Abortion Bans, Airs Friday, Jan. 5, at 8 p.m. EST on ABC



ABC News\*

ABC News Studios announced today that the “Impact x Nightline” original report “On the Brink,” led by ABC News anchor **Diane Sawyer** and senior congressional correspondent **Rachel Scott**, will now air as a primetime special on **Friday, Jan. 5, at 8 p.m. EST** on ABC. The special report first premiered on [Hulu](#).

In the special, Sawyer and Scott cover the harrowing stories of pregnant women who have medical emergencies in states with laws restricting abortions and the physicians caught in a legal web when trying to provide essential health care.

Sawyer and Scott traveled to Denton, Texas, where they sat down to speak with 18 women from 10 states. These women learned the heartbreaking news that the babies they desperately wanted were not, and would never be, viable. Several of the women experienced dangerous complications that required urgent termination to save their lives, health and future fertility. Some of the women say that because of the laws, they were sent home from hospitals and told to return once they became sicker — sick enough to qualify for care under the law. Many suffered severe health consequences as they got closer to the brink of death. Others fled their home states, sometimes traveling thousands of miles and spending their life savings to get health care.

Over the course of reporting, Sawyer, Scott and the ABC News team spoke to nearly 100 physicians. Many described the challenges and confusion about what medical care they are allowed to provide, as well as fears for their patients' lives, as doctors attempt to provide care for their patients and protect themselves from prison time, large fines and loss of their medical licenses.

"IMPACT x Nightline" is produced for Hulu by ABC News Studios. Eman Varoqua is executive producer, and Candace Smith Chekwa is senior broadcast producer. Tess Scott Davidson is lead senior producer for "IMPACT x Nightline: On the Brink" and also for the "On the Brink" primetime special. "IMPACT x Nightline" is overseen by Justin Dial, vice president of Streaming News, and Reena Mehta, senior vice president of Streaming and Digital Content. ABC News Studios is led by Mike Kelley.

### **About ABC News Studios**

ABC News Studios, inspired by ABC News' trusted reporting, is an award-winning, premium news and documentary original production house and commissioning partner of series and specials. ABC News Studios champions untold and authentic stories driving the cultural zeitgeist spanning true-crime, investigations, pop culture and news-adjacent stories. ABC News Studios' original titles include critically acclaimed documentaries "Pretty Baby: Brooke Shields," "Sound of the Police," "The Lady Bird Diaries" and "Aftershock," and popular docu-series and documentaries, including "Killing County," "Wild Crime," "Mormon No More," "The Randall Scandal: Love, Loathing, and Vanderpump" and "Jelly Roll: Save Me."

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### **ABC News Media Relations**

Brooks Lancaster | [brooks.lancaster@abc.com](mailto:brooks.lancaster@abc.com)

Sydney Tretter | [sydney.tretter@abc.com](mailto:sydney.tretter@abc.com)

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