

NOT PRECEDENTIAL

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

No. 24-3124

FIRST CHOICE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTERS, INC.,
Appellant

v.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

On Appeal from the United States District Court
for the District of New Jersey
(D.C. No. 3:23-cv-23076)
District Judge: Honorable Michael A. Shipp

Argued: December 10, 2024

Before: BIBAS, CHUNG, and ROTH, *Circuit Judges*

(Filed: December 12, 2024)

OPINION*

Erin M. Hawley
Lincoln D. Wilson **[ARGUED]**
ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM
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* This disposition is not an opinion of the full Court and pursuant to I.O.P. 5.7 does not constitute binding precedent.

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PER CURIAM[†]

First Choice sued the Attorney General of New Jersey to prevent him from enforcing a non-self-enforcing investigatory subpoena that requested, among other things, First Choice’s donor records and identities. The case has proceeded in concurrent litigation in both state and federal court, and it has traveled up and down both court systems. It is now before us on the question of whether First Choice’s constitutional claims are ripe.

We review the District Court’s dismissal for lack of subject matter jurisdiction *de novo*. *Metro. Life Ins. Co. v. Price*, 501 F.3d 271, 275 (3d Cir. 2007). At the pleadings stage, we “accept as true all well-pled factual allegations in the complaint and all reasonable inferences that can be drawn from them.” *Huertas v. Galaxy Asset Mgmt.*, 641 F.3d 28, 32 (3d Cir. 2011) (internal quotation marks omitted).

“A foundational principle of Article III is that an actual controversy must exist not only at the time the complaint is filed, but through all stages of the litigation.” *Trump v. New York*, 592 U.S. 125, 131 (2020) (internal quotation marks omitted). Plaintiffs must demonstrate standing, including “an injury that is concrete, particularized, and imminent

[†] Judge Bibas dissents and would find First Choice’s constitutional claims ripe because he believes that this case is indistinguishable from *Americans for Prosperity Foundation v. Bonta*, 594 U.S. 595 (2021).

rather than conjectural or hypothetical.” *Id.* (internal quotation marks omitted). Claims must also be ripe, both to be encompassed within Article III and as a matter of prudence. *Susan B. Anthony List v. Driehaus*, 573 U.S. 149, 157 n.5, 167 (2014).

Having considered the parties’ arguments, we do not think First Choice’s claims are ripe. It can continue to assert its constitutional claims in state court as that litigation unfolds; the parties have been ordered by the state court to negotiate to narrow the subpoena’s scope; they have agreed to so negotiate; the Attorney General has conceded that he seeks donor information from only two websites; and First Choice’s current affidavits do not yet show enough of an injury. We believe that the state court will adequately adjudicate First Choice’s constitutional claims, and we expect that any future federal litigation between these parties would likewise adequately adjudicate them. *See Tafflin v. Levitt*, 493 U.S. 455, 458 (1990); *Bonta*, 594 U.S. 595. Therefore, we affirm the judgment of the District Court dismissing the case for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.