

Call your State Senator and Representative to Oppose SB 1564

Eliminates Rights of Conscience for Medical Personnel

SB 1564 — Senator Daniel Biss (D-Skokie) would amend the Illinois' Health Care Right of Conscience Act and supersede the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which allows a citizen to act upon their religious beliefs.

Under SB 1564, Illinois doctors, nurses and medical personnel would be forced to make ethical choices between their religious convictions and obeying the State.

Doctors are sworn to "Do No Harm," as Greek philosopher Hippocrates taught. Under SB 1564, a doctor's conscience and religious beliefs are irrelevant and it's possible that a doctor refusing to assist in a procedure he/she morally objects to could result in a lawsuit.

The proposal stipulates that a medical facility or physician must have an established protocol in place, printed to distribute to patients in response to any condition that the physician may find the patient seeking.

Even delaying the treatment by one day beyond what the patient demands could imperil an objecting doctor's practice.

SB 1564 contradicts the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, which in part says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the *free exercise* thereof ..."

SB 1564 would overrule the religious beliefs of American citizens that practice medicine and encumber their constitutionally-guaranteed free exercise of religion.

Nationwide, some states' conscience clauses explicitly cover abortion, contraception, sterilization, and the withholding or withdrawing of life-sustaining treatments. Others cover local conditions. For example in Oregon, a conscience clause describes a physician's right of refusal concerning physician-assisted suicide, which is legal in that state. ♦

Capitol Switchboard number is 217-782-2000.

