



Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops

THE PUBLIC POLICY VOICE OF THE CHURCH

Support Conscience Protection for Healthcare Professionals

HB 1291 (Bell) | SB 573 (Springer)

Our country has a long tradition in respecting the freedom of conscience of individuals. Yet, too often we are unaware of laws which provide protection for health care workers and institutions who may feel coerced by the government or their employer to violate their consciences.

SUPPORT CONSCIENCE PROTECTION FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS



Our long-standing legal protections offer little value to healthcare professionals without awareness. Supporting HB 1291/SB 573 raises this much needed awareness.

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS SHOULD KNOW THEIR RIGHTS.

Support their conscience protection.



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txcatholic.org | 512-339-9882

In 1973, the same year the Supreme Court changed abortion law in the United States, Congress passed provisions collectively known as the Church Amendments to protect the conscience rights of workers and institutions in the healthcare industry (Federal Health Care Conscience Protection Statutes, 1973).

In 1977, Texas followed suit with its own conscience protections of health care workers regarding abortion. Texas subsequently bolstered this conscience protection in 1999, passing additional legislation in the Occupations Code, underscoring the importance of the law.

These long-standing legal protections offer little value without awareness. Supporting HB 1291/SB 573 raises awareness to protect individuals working within the healthcare industry from being illegally pressured or coerced in to providing or participating in an abortion procedure.

“Freedom of conscience always and everywhere must be respected.”

Pope Francis, June 17, 2020

HB 1291/SB 573:

- Requires hospitals and healthcare facilities to provide written notice that an individual has the legal right to refuse to perform or participate in an abortion procedure, raising awareness of all parties of the law;
- Prohibits hospitals or healthcare facilities from discriminating against the individual for refusing to perform or participate in an abortion procedure;
- Allows for potential remedy under Section 103.003 for a violation of an individual’s right to refuse to participate or perform an abortion procedure, consistent with current law.

The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops is the association of the Roman Catholic bishops of Texas. The TCCB represents 16 dioceses and 20 active bishops. Through the TCCB, the bishops provide a moral and social public policy voice, accredit the state's Catholic schools, and maintain archives that reflect the work and the history of the Catholic Church in Texas.