



April 3, 2009

Dear Mr. President,

We would like to respectfully request a meeting with you regarding the conscience protection rule administered by the Department of Health & Human Services. The comment period ends next week on April 9th and we would like to meet with you soon after to discuss the possible ramifications should the conscience protection rule be rescinded.

We are comprised of over 30 organizations representing more than 5 million constituents including patients and their healthcare professionals, who would be put at a crossroads in their careers should the conscience rule be rescinded. We are doctors, nurses, physician assistants, anesthesiologists and pharmacists, who care deeply about the welfare of our patients yet would be put at a crossroads in our careers should the conscience rule be rescinded. We would be forced to choose between our profession and honoring our conscience if we do not have sufficient protection under the law.

As you are probably aware, Catholic hospitals make up about 20% of all hospitals in the country and admit over 5.5 million patients per year. In fact, one in every six patients are cared for in a Catholic hospital every year. If you add in other faith-based hospitals, the numbers skyrocket. It would be a travesty to patients, hospital workers, doctors, medical students, and local economies should these institutions be forced to close because they were not protected under the conscience rule.

We hope that you will take the time to meet with us, as healthcare professionals who, on a daily basis, confront difficult decisions and circumstances yet seek to adhere to the principles we took as doctors to protect and preserve life.

Additionally, we want to take this opportunity to share with you the results of a national scientific survey of Americans (33% Republican, 22% Independent, 39% Democrat) that we think may interest you. We intend to publish these results soon. Of those responding:

- **63%** support conscience protection regulation
- **62%** oppose rescinding the conscience clause
- **54%** are less likely to vote for a Member of Congress who supported *eliminating* rule
- **58%** support the Hyde-Weldon Amendment

We sincerely ask for a few minutes of your time soon after the end of the comment period next week to discuss the impact the rule would have on us and our patients.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Halbig
Director
Freedom2Care

Raymond B. Ruddy
President
Gerard Health Foundation

Gary Bauer
President
American Values

Brian Burch
Executive Director
CatholicVote.org

Dorinda C. Bordlee
Executive Director
Senior Counsel, Bioethics Defense Fund

Johanna E. Dasteel
American Life League

Kristan J. Hawkins
Executive Director
Students for Life of America

Peggy Hartshorn
President
Heartbeat International

Dr. Randy Brinson
Chairman and Founder
Redeem the Vote, Inc

Jenn Giroux
Executive Director
Women Influencing the Nation (WIN)

Joseph A. Brinck
President
Sanctity of Life Foundation

Steven N. Brody



Executive Director
Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc.

John Helmberger
CEO
Minnesota Family Council & Institute

Donna Harrison
American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Dr. David Stevens
Christian Medical Association

Charmaine Yoest, Ph.D.
President and CEO
American United for Life

Pat Emery, MS, RN
Director
Nurses Christian Fellowship/USA

Tom Benton, MD
American College of Pediatricians

Dana Cody
President and Executive Director
Life Legal Defense Foundation

Dr. John T Bruchalski, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.
President and Chairman
Divine Mercy Care

Melinda Delahoyde
President
Care Net

M. Casey Mattox
Litigation Counsel
Center for Law and Religious Freedom

Andrea Lafferty
Traditional Values Coalition

J.C. Wilke, M.D.
International Right to Life Federation



Bradley Mattes
Executive Director
Life Issues Institute

Louis C. Breschi, M.D.
President
Catholic Medical Association

Jennifer Kimball
President
Culture of Life Foundation

William McKenzie, M.D.
President
Alabama Physicians for Life, Inc.

Austin Ruse
President
C-FAM (Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute)

Charles T. Kenny, Ph.D.
President
The Right Brain People

Linda W. Flower, M.D.
Chairman
Texas Physicians Resource Council

Shaun Kenney
Executive Director
American Life League