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Gerald Winslow, PhD

Professor of Christian Ethics at Loma Linda University

Arkansas Senate
State Capitol Building
500 Woodlane Street
Suite 320
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1090

Dear Members of the Arkansas Senate:

I'm writing to ask for your support on legislation to create the Medical Ethics and Diversity Act. This vital piece of legislation will create conscience rights protections for Arkansas healthcare professionals.

Conscience rights protections are increasingly crucial for healthcare professionals who are guided in their practice of medicine by principles such as those found in the Hippocratic Oath. Many healthcare professionals practice according to values derived from their personal faith that do not allow them to participate in specific procedures, such as chemical abortion or even referral for abortion.

These long-established rights of conscience are now under increasing attack around the country from various quarters, threatening the very soul of medicine. One recent survey found that up to 91 percent of healthcare professionals would consider leaving medicine if they were forced to practice medicine against their conscience.

If passed, the Medical Ethics and Diversity Act would provide necessary conscience protections that will allow Arkansas healthcare professionals to practice high-quality medicine according to their conscience and personal beliefs.

I urge you to support this excellent piece of legislation and strengthen life-affirming medical care in Arkansas.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Barrows, DO, MA (Ethics)
President
American Academy of Medical Ethics



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