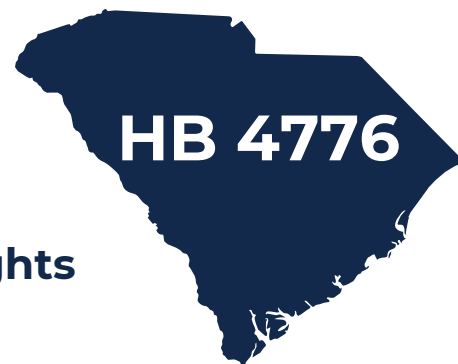


The MED Act



Responding to Biden's Assault on Religious Freedom and Conscience Rights for Healthcare Workers

The Biden Administration's Department of Health and Human Services recently announced its plan to rescind existing federal regulations that protect conscience rights, a move that will abandon pro-life and faith-based medical caregivers in South Carolina and across the nation. As the federal government pushes policies that threaten religious freedom and the right of conscience, **South Carolina must lead the effort to protect those rights against infringement.**

Enacting the Medical Ethics and Diversity Act (MED Act) will preserve these vital protections for doctors, nurses, and medical students in South Carolina, ensuring they can continue caring for all patients in a compassionate, ethical manner. **And that's why over 350 doctors in South Carolina have announced their support for the MED Act.**

Biden's Assault on Medical Conscience Rights

- In 2019, the Trump Administration issued a comprehensive federal regulation to protect medical professionals from discrimination for declining to participate in actions that violate their ethical or moral convictions, such as abortion or assisted suicide.
- But the Biden administration recently announced it will rescind the 2019 regulation, harming both medical professionals and the patients they serve by possibly driving nurses, doctors, and other medical professionals out of healthcare.
- Rescinding conscience protections will exacerbate lack of access to care, especially after the pandemic has reduced medical staffing leading to dire shortages.
- Through various actions, the Biden Administration could force doctors, nurses, medical practitioners, and faith-based hospitals to perform abortions, harmful and experimental gender transition procedures on kids, and other unethical procedures that violate human dignity and undermine the sanctity of life—significantly harming religious freedom and medical conscience in health care.



religious doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals say they would rather stop practicing medicine than violate their ethical, moral, or religious beliefs

36%

of Christian medical students say they have experienced discrimination or pressure during medical school

South Carolina's Response: The MED Act

- Although the Biden Administration's actions threaten core religious liberty rights, health care professionals cannot rely on federal laws or enforcement to protect them.
- **Unless South Carolina acts immediately to protect medical rights of conscience, nurses, doctors, and other medical professionals in South Carolina might not be able to serve their communities consistent with their moral, ethical, and religious beliefs.**
- By passing the MED Act, South Carolina is standing with patients (both born and in the womb) and their families and **by providing vital protections for medical professionals, religious hospitals, and medical entities** that simply want to love and care for patients consistent with their moral, ethical, and religious convictions.
- South Carolina has the authority to provide greater protections for constitutional rights—including medical rights of conscience—than are provided under federal law. As the U.S. Supreme Court explained, “Within our federal system the substantive rights provided by the Federal Constitution define only a minimum. State law may recognize liberty interests more extensive than those independently protected by the Federal Constitution.” *Mills v. Rogers*, 457 U.S. 291, 300 (1982).

The MED Act Protects Patients and Medical Professionals

No patient should have their medical choices limited because there are too few providers available. And when freedom of conscience is compromised, patient care is compromised.

Patients are best served by doctors, nurses, and other medical professions who are free to act ethically and consistent with their oath to “Do No Harm.”

The MED Act:

- 1** Protects nurses, doctors, and the healthcare institutions where they work from being mandated to participate in a specific procedure that violates their ethical or religious beliefs.
- 2** Protects medical professionals from losing their jobs or facing criminal charges for exercising their conscience rights.
- 3** Enhances patient care by protecting those who report violations of laws or medical ethics.

Other states, such as **Ohio, Arkansas, Mississippi, and even Illinois**, have passed laws like the MED Act that protect conscience rights for medical professionals.

No American should be forced to violate their conscience. Doctors, nurses, and other medical providers are no different. The MED Act is a simple and reasonable protection for our healthcare heroes in the face of attacks from the federal government.