



**Concerned Women for America**  
**FACT CARD**

**Freedom of Conscience**

**1. Freedom of Conscience is Fundamental to American Values**

- No one should be forced to participate in an immoral act.
- Conscientious objectors are exempt from combat. Physicians opposed to the death penalty are not forced to administer lethal injections.
- Doctors should not be forced to do procedures they believe are immoral.

**2. Protecting Doctors Ultimately Protects Patients**

- We trust doctors to use good judgment and “do no harm.”
- This totalitarian effort to purge the medical community of those who value life will corrupt the medical profession. Doctors should heal, not kill.

**3. Ethical Health Care Providers Face Discrimination**

- Medical providers report being forced out of positions or reprimanded for declining to participate in abortions.
- The threat of reprisal discourages medical students from pursuing careers in obstetrics and gynecology, a field already experiencing a lack of doctors.

*For more information on this issue and others - [www.cwfa.org](http://www.cwfa.org) or 1(800)458-8797.*



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**Please protect the right of conscience!**

**4. Patients Will Suffer if Health Providers are Denied Freedom of Conscience**

- Patients should have the freedom to choose doctors who share their values and will not commit abortions.
- Forcing doctors, nurses, and pharmacists to violate their conscience will push qualified, ethical people out of the profession, worsening the crisis of fewer health care workers in an already diminishing field.
- Clinics and hospitals could be shut down for refusing to offer abortions.
- Conscientious physicians are the ones most likely to be ministering to AIDS patients, the poor, and the medically underserved. Forcing them out of the profession will hurt the needy the most.

**5. Discrimination Will Reduce Access to Health Care**

- Critics, who are inconvenienced by having to go elsewhere for a drug or procedure, are trying to drive health care providers with moral beliefs out of the profession *entirely* – thereby denying others access to overall health care.
- Patients should not have their choice of doctors limited only to those who will commit abortions.

**ACT on the FACTS**

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