**Support the Religious Freedom of Priests for Life**

Priests for Life v. Department of Health and Human Services

NACN-U.S.A. signed on to an amicus brief in support of the religious freedom of Priests for Life. A panel of the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals allowed a lower court’s ruling to stand, which denied religious freedom to Priests for Life by forcing the organization to comply with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ employer Contraceptive Mandate. This Mandate violates the religious freedom of this faith-based organization by forcing it to be complicit in providing to its employees contraception, including abortifacient drugs and devices. The Court also denied a request for a full court review of this case, compelling Priests for Life to face the choice of violating their faith or paying huge fines.

Priests for Life is now petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene. Religious freedom is the bedrock of this democracy, and the foundation for our very existence as a country.

NACN-U.S.A. recognizes that when the religious freedom of one group is violated by the law, all groups, including health care workers of conscience, are vulnerable to similar violations. NACN-U.S.A. is happy to be standing with Priests for Life in support of their religious freedom.

 The National Association of Catholic Nurses, U.S.A. joined the American Physicians & Surgeons, American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians & Gynecologists, Christian Medical Association, The National Catholic Bioethics Center, Alabama Physicians for Life, The National Association of Pro-Life Nurses in supporting the Priests for Life.

Read a copy of the Brief at: <https://nacn-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/Priests-for-Life-Amicus-brief-of-AAPS-et-al.pdf>

From: Dr. Marie Hilliard, PhD, MS, MA, JCL, RN, NACN-USA, Northeast Regional Director and Director of Bioethics and Public Policy for The National Catholic Bioethics Center. She assists the NACN-U.S.A.’s Ethics and Spirituality Committee. (Rec. 8/20/2015)