**Take Action to Protect Healthcare Conscience by January 15th**

There is a critical case going before the United States Supreme Court that threatens religious liberty and healthcare rights of conscience. In Stormans v. Wiesman, the owner of a local pharmacy and two pharmacist challenged a Washington State regulation requiring that they stock and dispense emergency contraceptives that the FDA has warned may cause the death of an embryo after conception. The challengers have a religiously based conscientious objection to purchasing and dispensing the drugs. At issue is whether the State of Washington can force pharmacies to provide services in violation of their religious convictions. A federal court in Washington struck down the State’s regulations as unconstitutional, but on appeal the Ninth Circuit reversed and upheld the law. The implications of this ruling are profound.

The court has undermined vital constitutional protection for all religious practices. This dangerously intrudes on the conscience protections in healthcare, which have been protected in every state so that pharmacists, doctors, nurses, and other health professionals can step aside when asked to participate in what they considered to be an abortion or the intentional taking of human life. And there is no doubt that the court’s legal ruling will have alarming implications for other healthcare professions. Now the challengers are asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review this dangerous precedent.

Each health care provider should have the right to draw a moral line and when they do so, it should be respected. That is what is being threatened and that is why we felt compelled to inform you about this opportunity.

YOU CAN HELP OVERTURN THIS DECISION. An amicus curie (friend of the court) brief is being prepared to speak on behalf of healthcare providers informing the court that rights of conscience must be protected. We need thousands of healthcare professionals to sign the brief to clearly communicate the importance this case to the High Court. It will only take 30 seconds of your time. Click here to let your voice be heard. But please act now! We don’t have much time, just until Friday, January 15, so we are going ahead and asking you to sign up today. (Posted 1/8/2016)

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