



THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER

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Bioethics and Public Policy Report

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The *National Scene*: ♦ Both the U.S. House of Representatives (H.R. 3301) and the U.S. Senate (S. 1881) have voted to defund [Planned Parenthood, Inc.](#), due to the selling of fetal body parts from their abortions. ♦ The U.S. House of Representatives also passed legislation giving states the choice to exclude abortion providers from their [Medicaid](#) programs.

The State of *Conscience/Religious Liberty*. It is a sad day when the government does not protect a nurse from being forced to harm human life. It is time for Congress to pass the [Abortion Non-Discrimination Act](#). ♦ NCBC has joined other organizations in response to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services proposed rule "[Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities](#)," cautioning that it would likely "infringe upon the religious and moral convictions of health-care providers, insurers and other stakeholders." In fact, it would discriminate against persons of conscience who oppose abortion and other procedures that violate life and the dignity of human sexuality. ♦ The Illinois Human Rights Commission has ruled against a bed and breakfast which refused to host a [civil union](#) ceremony between two men. ♦ A [Colorado baker](#) has petitioned the State Supreme Court to hear his appeal of a lower court decision telling him he must provide cakes for same-sex weddings. ♦ The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), et al, have filed suit against the Louisiana Governor's "[Marriage and Conscience](#)" executive order, which protects the religious freedom of those who hold that marriage is between one man and one woman. ♦ The Alliance Defending Freedom has filed a federal lawsuit against the California Department of Managed Health Care for forcing churches to pay for elective [abortions in their health insurance](#) plans. ♦ A [California law](#) requiring crisis pregnancy centers to inform women where to get an abortion is being challenged as a violation of free-speech. ♦ The ACLU has sued Trinity Health Corporation for refusing to perform abortions on women whose babies were diagnosed with [fatal fetal anomalies](#). ♦ Also, see *Recent Good News*.

State *by State*: The United States Supreme Court has agreed to hear a challenge to a 2013 [Texas law, HB2](#), that requires abortion facilities to meet minimum health and safety standards and that abortionists maintain hospital privileges within 30 miles of their abortion facilities. ♦ The Governor of Texas has eliminated taxpayer funding of [Planned Parenthood](#), after exposure of the sale of fetal parts. ♦ A federal U.S. District Court judge has temporarily stayed the order of the Louisiana Governor to eliminate taxpayer funding of [Planned Parenthood](#). A similar ruling was ordered against the state of [Arkansas](#).

Recent *Good News*: The Clark County, NV, School District reversed its denial of freedom of speech to a student wanting to establish a [Pro-life Club](#). The student was represented by the Thomas More Society. ♦ The Nevada State Commission on Special Licenses Plates has approved the “[Nevada Values Life](#)” license plate. ♦ [Real Alternatives](#), a life-affirming alternative (to abortion) care model, has received 3.5 million dollars in funding from the State of Indiana. ♦

***Sharing Your Good News and Your Efforts*:** If there are public policy advocacy strategies which you wish to share with others, please e-mail mhilliard@ncbcenter.org.

***Sharing of Resources*:** The web page of the National Catholic Bioethics Center is a significant resource in the realm of bioethics: www.ncbcenter.org. Also, bioethicists are on call twenty-four hours a day, every day of the week, for consultation by calling 215-877-2660.