

SB 1564 (SA3) is Necessary Because the Health Care Right of Conscience Act Does Not Protect Patients

- The HCRCA allows doctors, hospitals and other health care providers to refuse to give patients care and *even* information that conflicts with the provider's religious beliefs.
- Aside from a narrow exception for emergencies, the HCRCA does not require objecting providers to take a patient's interests into account or consider whether their actions will harm the patient.
- Without the clarity SB 1564 (SA3) offers, a patient may be left without the information needed to understand the medical circumstances, make informed medical decisions and obtain the care they need.
- Other states, like Mississippi and Louisiana, have similar laws, but have created clear obligations to ensure that patient health and access to care is not compromised. Illinois must do the same.

SB 1564 (SA3) Creates Clarity that Protects Patients and Providers; 83% of voters agree that no patient should be denied the information necessary to make an informed medical decision because of this law

- Under SB 1564 (SA3), health care providers can assert conscience-based objections if they have in place protocols designed to ensure that:
 - The patient is informed about the patient's medical circumstances and treatment options in accordance with accepted standards of medical practice;
 - The patient is provided either a referral or transfer, or written information about where the patient may be able to get the treatment they need;
 - The patient's medical records are provided to the patient or to the provider from whom the patient is seeking treatment without undue delay.
- Many religious health care providers are already doing what SB 1564 (SA3) requires; all should be doing so.

SB 1564 (SA3) is Consistent with the Constitution and Federal Law

- SB 1564 (SA3) makes clear that health care providers are not relieved of their common law duty to provide information consistent with the standard of care—that is not discrimination.
- Health care providers do not have a constitutional right to withhold information from their patients about the patient's medical circumstances and treatment options.
- SB 1564 (SA3) does not compel any health care provider to provide or refer for any medical procedure—providers just cannot claim the protections of the HCRCA unless they follow protocols that are designed to ensure that patients get the information they need to understand their medical circumstances.

Under SB1564 (SA3), Patients Can Still Choose Doctors with Faith-based practices

- If a doctor and a patient share a religious objection to certain treatments or procedures, they can come to an understanding up-front that they will not discuss those treatment options.
- SB 1564 (SA3) is not about forcing patients to hear about treatment options they oppose on religious grounds.
- When the religious views of the health care provider and the patient do not align, SB 1564 (SA3) makes sure patients are not kept in the dark about their medical circumstances.

The Illinois State Medical Society and the Catholic Conference are neutral on this bill



Planned Parenthood of Illinois

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Illinois Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)

Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP)

EverThrive Illinois

Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health

National Coalition of American Nuns

National Council of Jewish Women Illinois State Policy Advocacy Network

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