



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

This week's Topic: Freedom of Conscience for Businesses



Education: Freedom of religion is not just freedom to worship as you choose, but to live your faith every day, to follow your conscience as you work. No one should be required by an employer, or by the government, to violate their conscience.

Yet as more and more immoral activities are judged by our culture to be legal and acceptable, they come to be considered as rights – and sometimes others are required to participate in providing those rights. Because Catholic Charities considers it wrong to place children with same-sex couples for foster care or adoption, certain local offices have been denied licenses to provide those services to anyone.(1) Health professionals also clearly need conscience protection to allow them to refuse to participate in abortion or euthanasia without risk to their jobs.

Businesses are being required by the Health and Human Services mandate to provide contraception and “emergency contraception” to their employees, since they are considered “preventative health services”. It doesn’t matter to our government that birth control pills and “morning after” pills can end the life of a young embryo. It doesn’t matter to the government that certain businesses believe that the use of these drugs is wrong and do not want anything to do with providing them to anyone.

But Hobby Lobby is suing for the right to follow their conscience, and the case has reached the Supreme Court, where oral arguments will be heard on March 25.(2) Yes - March 25 - nine months before Christmas, which is celebrated in the Catholic church as the feast of the Annunciation. It is the day Mary said “yes” to become the mother of God, and presumably the day our Lord was conceived in her womb – the day His human life began.

1. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/29/us/for-bishops-a-battle-over-whose-rights-prevail.html?pagewanted=all>
2. <http://www.citizenlink.com/2014/01/09/take-action-u-s-supreme-court-sets-date-for-hobby-lobby-hearing/>



Prayer: Dear Father God, please touch the hearts of the leaders of our nation, and particularly the nine justices of the Supreme Court, to preserve the freedom of religion – and therefore freedom to follow our consciences - that our country was founded on. Allow all Americans to be reassured of our essential freedom to seek You and follow You. Please protect Christians from coercion to participate in what they believe to be wrong. Please let all branches of our government make decisions that strengthen rather than attack our freedom to follow our consciences.



Action: Government must not force Americans to violate their religious and moral beliefs on respect for life when they provide health care or sponsor or purchase health coverage. Please ask your representatives to support H. R 940, the Health Care Conscience Rights Act, introduced on 3/4/2013. There has been no action on the bill since March, when it was referred to the Health Committee. Go to <http://nchla.org/actiondisplay.asp?ID=292> to easily

send a message to your representatives.