

February 9, 2020

We Are Losing Our Religious Freedom

As the US Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) has noted “in recent years, religious freedom has been increasingly threatened, endangering our ability to live out our Faith in ways such as protecting and defending human life. Health care legislation has repeatedly tried to mandate abortion and contraceptive coverage in insurance plans and force Catholic hospitals to provide abortion. Health care professionals have been the victims of discrimination for refusing to participate in or refer for abortion. Most disturbing, nurses have reported being forced to participate in abortion procedures, directly violating their deeply held religious beliefs.”

On January 16, 2020, Governor Murphy signed bill A5508 / S3804 into law. Prior to this time, state law included an exemption for religious employers allowing them to exclude healthcare coverage for contraceptives where such coverage would conflict with the employer’s religious beliefs and practices. With the passage of this law, employers such as Church must now provide coverage for contraceptives in their healthcare plans.

This is a matter which should alarm all of us: we are continuing down a dark road. The USCCB continues “As Catholics, we know that every human life is created in the image and likeness of God. Let us pray for the protection of religious freedom in our nation, that we may continue our pro-life efforts in accord with the Gospel of Life.” And, let us pray that we elect legislators who will vote to uphold our rights and protect every life from conception to natural death.

You may view how each legislator voted here:

assembly member: <https://d11k7kdw1jndr7.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/>

state Senator: <https://d11k7kdw1jndr7.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/>