



Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice in

Michigan

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November 28, 2012

On behalf of people of faith throughout the state and the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice in Michigan, we ask you to oppose SB 975. These documents claim to protect religious liberty but actually accomplish the opposite of the sponsors' intentions. Additionally, they jeopardize timely access to health services.

The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice in Michigan takes very seriously personal beliefs and acts of conscience. While our member organizations are religiously and theologically diverse, they are unified in the commitment to preserve reproductive choice as a basic part of religious liberty.

We remind legislators that one person's individual religious liberty should not infringe on another's. One's religious liberty ends where another person's begins. This bill strikes a blow at the cornerstone of this country's founding democratic principles.

Specific religious doctrine does not belong in health care.

We believe that women and men have the right to decide whether or not to apply the principles of their faith in matters of their own health care and that to do so, they must have access to services. We must have policies that put the patient first. We cannot imagine an instance where a person would want care where the patient's needs are secondary to another's personal beliefs.

Our leaders have the responsibility to safeguard individual religious liberty and to help improve the health of all citizens.

Furthermore, we are concerned that this type of legislation is a slippery slope. Some may scoff that the possibility is absurd. However, also absurd to think that a doctor would deny a woman contraception to treat ovarian cysts, painful menstrual cycles, and heavy periods which could cause anemia? Even more absurd would be for that doctor or insurance company to deny a woman contraception on moral grounds but justify providing Viagra to a man. As contrary to common sense as that is, it is also today's reality.

Please protect the religious liberty and access to health care for all citizens. Please oppose SB 975.

In Faith,

Joy Whitten

Pastor Robert Frederick

Rabbi Amy Bigman Pastor Kit Carlson