



## Focus on Religious Freedom

*"Religious liberty is fragile, and religious intolerance and persecution have been recurring features of human history." - Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito*

### **Heads Up! – Proposed Regulations Deny the Rights of Conscience in Healthcare, Education, and Social Services with Great Harm to the Common Good**

New federal regulations proposed by the US Dept of Health and Human Services would cripple Catholic and other faith-based institutions from hospitals, healthcare, education, and social services and would deny rights of conscience to Catholic employers, healthcare providers and other millions of faithful Americans. Among other things, the regulations would:

- \* Force doctors to perform gender transition procedures, including surgeries, and mandate insurance coverage for them
- \* Enshrine gender identity and sexual orientation ideology into education and mandate students be allowed to access restrooms, locker rooms and sports according to their asserted gender.
- \* Discriminate against religious beliefs in social services
- \* Suppress faith-based groups at college campuses
- \* Remove conscience protections for health care professionals' conscience rights
- \* Would not afford equal treatment to faith-based charities. <sup>(1)</sup>

"For centuries, the Church's ministries of healing, education, and social services have borne witness to Jesus Christ and built up the common good," wrote the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). "Church institutions are expressions of Christian ministry dedicated to human flourishing. Most Americans understand that mission-driven organizations should be free to operate in accordance with their missions. But a cascade of changes to current regulations is being adopted by various executive agencies that would prevent Christian ministries - and others - from carrying out their work, harming the public who benefits from them." <sup>(2)</sup>

The proposed HHS rule..." also disregards medical professionals' duty to provide sound care and tramples on the deeply held religious beliefs of many by forcing them to participate in the practices of gender transitions and abortion," said Jason Thacker of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC). <sup>(3)</sup>

These new regulations trample on the religious liberties and conscience rights of health care providers, hospitals, physicians, group health insurers, third party administrators of health plans and all employers with fifteen or more employees...and must be stopped.

(usccb.org, 7/25/22(1)(3); healthaffs.org,7/25/22; aeaweb.org, 7/25/22; tax.thomasreuters.com, 7/28/22)  
(BaptistPress.com, 7/27/22(2))

***America's commitment to religious freedom is 'essential.' ... It constitutes one of our most treasured and jealously guarded constitutional rights."*** Statement from U.S. Attorneys General