



Focus on Religious Freedom

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Doctors Could Be Required to Perform Transgender Surgeries and Abortions Warns Bishops' Report on the "State of Religious Liberty in the United States."

The conscience protection of the First Amendment has largely secured the rights of doctors and nurses to follow their conscience in spite of many challenges to that freedom. However, the Bishops of the United States point out in their report, "State of Religious Liberty in the United States" that First Amendment protections will be threatened if the so-called Equality Act is passed by Congress. The Equality Act, first passed by the House in 2021 and stalled in the Senate ever since, redefines "sex", as used in various federal civil rights laws, into the new gender ideology which conflicts with the Biblical and Catholic Catechism teachings that God created us man and woman. The Bishops warn that, among other governmental compulsions, all medical personnel could be required to recommend and perform transgender surgeries for children and to perform abortions.

uscgb.org/equality-act: "The Equality Act: exempts itself from the bipartisan Religious Freedom Restoration Act, in an explicit and unprecedented departure from one of America's founding principles, thereby infringing on religious freedom and making it more difficult for individuals to live out their faith." [Further, the Act]

- "forces religiously operated spaces and establishments, such as church halls, to either host functions that violate their beliefs or close their doors to their communities
- requires [biological] women [and girls] to compete against [biological] men and boys in sports, and to share locker rooms and shower facilities.
- forces faith-based charities that serve all people to violate their religious beliefs [or be shut down, thereby] threatening the welfare of thousands of beneficiaries of charitable services such as shelters and foster care agencies.
- jeopardizes existing prohibitions on the use of federal taxpayer funds for abortion, likely pressuring or even mandating the performance of abortions by health care providers in violation of their consciences, and ultimately ending more human lives
- hinders quality health care, by forcing health care professionals, against their best medical judgment, to support treatments and procedures associated with "gender transition."

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