



Focus on Religious Freedom

www.cffor.org

Lawfare Attacks the Conscience Rights of the Little Sisters of the Poor

Since 2012 the Little Sisters of the Poor, dedicated to the care of the elderly poor and sick, have spent countless hours of efforts to preserve their rights of religious freedom. In order to follow their deeply held conscientious beliefs they seek exemption from the Health and Human Services' (HHS) mandate to provide contraceptives, abortifacients and sterilization procedures in their employees' healthcare plans.

The Obama administration circumvented the legislative process in Feb. 2012, avoiding debate and a vote on this mandate, by directing its secretary of HHS to sign a regulation requiring that employers provide birth control known to violate the conscience rights of millions of Americans of many faiths. Extreme fines would be imposed if the HHS mandate was not followed.

Many Americans remember that the Hobby Lobby family owned business also objected to the HHS mandate on conscience grounds and were victorious in their case to the Supreme Court. The Hobby Lobby secular case did not apply to the Little Sisters who then worked their own way to the Supreme Court.

In 2016 and 2020 the Supreme Court issued opinions freeing the Little Sisters from the HHS Mandate, but the states of CA, PA and NJ have taken the Sisters to court to try to overturn their Supreme Court exemptions. On Aug. 13, 2025 a PA federal court ruled against the Little Sisters exemptions. Their lead attorney from the Becket Fund says they will appeal again to the Supreme Court.

Every American of every faith or of none should be aware of the virulent and pointless persecution of this order of selfless, generous and tireless nuns. Anti-life attorneys general and states who encourage them should hear from all of us who recognize this blatant bias.

Read More: <https://tinyurl.com/sspynj7b> <https://tinyurl.com/nhh76ek4>
<https://tinyurl.com/bddzcbcz> <https://tinyurl.com/yzf7pij2> <https://tinyurl.com/4p7iyke3>

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” – Matthew 25:40

Sept. 2015. Little Sisters of the Poor invited the Board of Directors of Catholics for Freedom of Religion to present our work at their Jeanne Jugan Residence in Washington, D.C.

Sister Constance Veit, LSP, Director of Communications, hosted Lorraine Yovino, Barbara Samuells, Virginia Daly and Pat Flynn

