



Focus on Religious Freedom

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Distortion of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act Forces Employers to be Complicit in Abortion...A Direct Denial of 1st Amendment Freedom of Conscience Explains the Bishops' Report on the "State of Religious Liberty in the United States."

When the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act was proposed in Congress, the Bishops of the United States supported the original provisions and intent of the act. The act was proposed to insure that pregnant women were accommodated in the workplace as needed for their health and comfort during pregnancy and after childbirth. Included possible accommodations for pregnant workers were longer work breaks, providing a stool for support while working, more frequent opportunity for beverages and food, temporary modification of work requirements that might be overly strenuous or tiring, more frequent bathroom breaks and accommodation for physician appointments,

The USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) approved and encouraged the originally proposed legislation as being pro-woman as well as child and family friendly. However, the final text of the bill included treatment and time off for pregnancy related conditions but also for abortion. The Bishops object, as do many other pro-freedom of conscience parties, because the Act would force employers, even religious employers, to be complicit in abortion against their conscience rights.

In August, 2024, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, chairman of the Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities said that enabling abortion would be a complete distortion of this legislation which received bi-partisan support because it did not include abortion.

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