

SB 1564 Creates Clarity that Protects the Patient and the Health Care Provider under the Health Care Right of Conscience Act

- The Health Care Right of Conscience Act (HCRCA) allows doctors, hospitals and other health care providers to refuse to give a patient care and *even* information that conflicts with the provider's religious beliefs.
- Aside from a narrow exception for emergencies, the HCRCA does not require objecting providers to take a patient's interests into account.
- Without the clarity SB 1564 offers, a patient may be left without the information needed to understand the medical circumstances, make informed medical decisions and obtain the care they need.
- The HCRCA also leaves health care providers without assurance that a patient will get medically appropriate information or clarity about what to do when a provider cannot provide care or information for religious reasons.
- Other states, like Mississippi and Louisiana, have similar laws, but have created clear obligations to ensure that patient health and access to care is not compromised. **Illinois must do the same.**

SB 1564 Protects Patients and Providers

- Under SB 1564, a patient is assured that, regardless of the doctor, health system or hospital's religious beliefs or affiliation, he or she will get the information needed to make an informed medical decision and to access the needed care.
- Under SB 1564, health care providers who object to providing certain care and information for religious reasons can do so according to clear procedures that protect them and their patients.
- Under SB 1564, each health care facility can determine for itself how it will both accommodate religious objections and also ensure each patient is adequately informed and not harmed.
- Most hospitals and health care professionals, regardless of their religious beliefs about certain types of health care services, want every patient to have full information and access to the care they need.
- Many religious health care providers are already doing what SB 1564 requires; all should be doing so.

SB 1564 Changes the Law to Strike the Right Balance

- Under SB 1564, health care providers can assert religious objections to providing care and information if they have in place protocols designed to ensure that a patient gets the information needed to make an informed medical decision and to obtain needed care.
- The protocols must address how the provider will ensure that:
 - The patient is informed about the medical circumstance and treatment options in accordance with accepted standards of medical practice;
 - The patient is informed about where he or she can get such treatment;
 - The patient's health is not impaired as a result of a provider's objection.



Planned Parenthood of Illinois