



The Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford v. Rauner

Case Name: *The Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford v. Rauner*

Status: Temporary injunction issued on October 17, 2017

Significance: Whether the state of Illinois can force pro-life medical professionals and pregnancy centers to promote abortion.

Background: Alliance Defending Freedom represents The Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford, a pro-life pregnancy center that offers support and a wide range of services to local women and their families. In 2016, Illinois enacted SB 1564, a law which requires Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford and pro-life medical professionals in Illinois to refer for abortions and provide women with a list of abortion providers. While pro-life medical professionals believe that abortion ends the life of an unborn child, SB 1564 would force them to lie and tell women there are “benefits” to abortion. The government should not force medical professionals to choose between violating the law and violating the Hippocratic duty to do no harm. The law targets pregnancy centers specifically because the government dislikes their views, which The Supreme Court has consistently held is unconstitutional.

Key Points

- No one should be forced to refer women for abortions—least of all pro-life pregnancy centers or pro-life medical professionals.
- The government should not force people to express a message that violates their convictions, especially on deeply divisive subjects such as abortion.
- Every medical professional should be free to live out the Hippocratic Oath’s commitment to “do no harm.” Pro-life medical professionals believe that abortion ends the life of an unborn child. Thus, forcing medical professionals to take part in abortion forces them to violate their Hippocratic Oath.

Key Facts

- The state of Illinois manufactured this law specially to target pro-life medical professionals and pregnancy centers because it dislikes their views.
- SB 1564 forces those who have a personal objections to abortion to refer women to abortion providers and state that abortion has “benefits” and is a “treatment option” for pregnancy. This defeats the very purpose of life-saving pregnancy centers.
- In *NIFLA v. Becerra*, the Supreme Court affirmed that the government cannot force pro-life pregnancy centers to refer for abortion.

The Bottom Line: The government should not force anyone to express a message that violates their convictions.