

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS30468 / H0308

The freedom to live and work consistent with one's conscience is fundamental to our society. No where is that more important than in health care, where doctors and nurses must be able to follow the Hippocratic Oath to "Do No Harm." The purpose of this legislation is to recognize and protect the rights of conscience for health care practitioners and health care entities when they are asked to provide medical services which go against their conscience. There are provisions to prevent discrimination or retaliation, and the legislation provides for a civil action for damages. Our state deals with physician and nursing shortages, and we should not be pushing people out of the practice of medicine and limiting access to care because there are particular medical procedures that they cannot in good faith provide. When we protect rights of conscience for health care practitioners and health care institutions, we are really protecting the quality of care that will be available to our families for years to come.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation causes no additional expenditures of funds at the state or local levels of government, nor does it cause an increase or decrease in revenue for state or local governments.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).