

## DISCLAIMER

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TO: Chairman Townsend and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor  
RE: Testimony on AB144  
BY: Kathleen Rossi, Representative of Nevada Right to Life

Chairman Townsend and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathleen Rossi and I am a Registered Nurse who worked in Critical Care for 13 years, a mother of four, and a lifelong Nevadan. I am also a member of Nevada Right to Life.

Although the original AB144 would have provided **some** amount of right of conscience protection for pharmacists, the presently amended bill has taken away **all** rights of conscience.

We strongly object to AB144 as it now stands for the following reasons:

1) Pharmacists are not glorified "order-takers" for physicians. They are medical professionals and as such are critically-thinking individuals who integrate their values and ethics into their work lives. Do we really want to make it a criminal offense for a medical professional to refuse to violate his conscience by filling an objectionable prescription or finding another to fill it? Government mandates that give no freedom of conscience to health practitioners are an unconstitutional infringement on their rights.

2) As a nurse, I was never forced to cooperate in any act that violated my conscience, nor was I asked to find another who would do so. Physicians and nurses have this valid and necessary right of conscience and are not required by law to be involved in abortions. To change laws in this area for one medical profession is a dangerous precedent.

3) Planned Parenthood, who according to the April 4, 2003 edition of the *Las Vegas Sun* was successful in their attempt to amend this bill to its current form, supposedly espouses the view of "freedom of choice" for all individuals in the decision of whether or not to be involved in the act of abortion. By forcing a pharmacist to dispense abortifacient drugs, such as RU486 and the potentially abortifacient morning after pill, the right of a pharmacist to "choose" to be involved in such acts would be abolished.

Please restore the original phase of Section 1, Article 1 to read:

**The employer of a pharmacist shall not discipline the pharmacist for refusing to fill or refill a prescription if (a) Filling or refilling the prescription would require the pharmacist to violate a genuine principle or tenet of good conscience held by the pharmacist.**

By doing this, the conscience rights of each individual pharmacist would be protected .

Thank you,

Kathleen Rossi  
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