



COLORADO CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

April 11, 2014

Dear Senator:

We strongly urge you to vote against Senate Bill 14-175. This misnamed bill, "Concerning Freedom from Governmental Interference in an Individual's Reproductive Health Decisions," has little to do with freedom, the government, or reproductive health. In fact, during testimony before the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on April 10, not a single person testifying in support of the bill could give an example of being denied access to contraception or abortion.

Senate Bill 14-175 is a fatally-flawed, over-broad attempt to deny women informed consent on the consequences of abortion, sterilization, and other "health decisions" that can adversely affect a woman's freedom and dignity. The bill, introduced late in this legislative session, is clearly a partisan attempt to silence the voices of doctors, nurses, social workers, and private citizens who seek to follow their consciences and to protect the lives of both mothers and children. The fact that proponents contend Colorado would be "the only state in the nation" with such legislation should be enough to give any prudent legislator pause, regardless of party, religion, or moral conscience.

Finally, language in the bill regarding "current evidence-based scientific data and medical consensus" is vague and arbitrary at best. It smacks of empiricism and moral relativism. The idea that just because science *can* do something, all women *should* do something is contrary to the natural law and the founding principles of our country. All human beings have a right to follow their own informed conscience based on the information available, not on a filtered set of information provided to them by abortion proponents.

As leaders of the Catholic Church in Colorado, we can assure you that a vote in favor of this bill will not be well-received by Catholics anywhere in this state.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila
Archbishop of Denver

Most Reverend Stephen J. Berg
Bishop of Pueblo

Most Reverend Michael J. Sheridan
Bishop of Colorado Springs