

To: Members of the Illinois Senate  
From: Christian Medical & Dental Associations  
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**SB 1564 – OPPOSE**  
*Eliminates Rights of Conscience for Medical Personnel*

**SB1564 threatens healthcare access and healthcare costs will rise.** Without the conscience protection regulation and laws, many conscientious and compassionate medical professionals and institutions will be **forced out of medicine**. Many faith based hospitals that provide services to thousands of patients may shut down rather than perform objectionable procedures. 95% of physicians in a national poll agreed, "I would rather stop practicing medicine altogether than be forced to violate my conscience." Healthcare costs will rise because of the lack of doctors and medical facilities.

**SB1564 threatens to cause damage to the doctor-patient relationship.** The conscience clause is a necessary regulation to preserve the exclusive doctor-patient relationship. If SB1564 passes it would put us at risk of reverting toward a pre-Hippocratic medical ethic. Hippocratic medicine has served Western medicine well for over 2 millennia by insuring the patient could trust the physician's integrity to focus on care that was in their best interests. Your doctor's conscience may someday be the last line of protection between you and those who would profit from your early death.

**SB1564 threatens a protection which is guaranteed by the Constitution.** Denying the constitutional freedoms of one group is a threat to the constitutional freedoms of every one of us. This right will soon be under attack in other professions, in our schools, and even in your place of worship and mine! If doctors lose their right to practice according to their conscience without pressure or reprisal, then other fundamental rights such as our freedom of speech will also fall like dominos.

- 87% of people oppose forcing professionals to violate their moral objections
- 88% of the public wants a healthcare professional that shares their moral values.
- The majority of voters are less likely to vote for their elected officials if they knew they had taken away conscience rights.

**Requiring medical personnel to behave in a way they object to morally  
and/or medically is unacceptable and must be rejected.**

**Please Protect the Rights of Conscience for Medical Personnel**  
**OPPOSE SB 1564**