



Written by [C. Mitchell Shaw](#) on November 7, 2019

because of an intact moral compass, informed by religious convictions — sees abortion as the murder to participate in the procedure is exactly a stripping away of religious liberty.

After all, if a person can be forced by law to lay his or her religious beliefs at the altar upon which the unborn are sacrificed to the god of convenience, can religious liberty even be said to exist?

First Liberty Institute is the largest legal group in America dedicated to protecting religious liberty. In a statement on this ruling, Stephanie Taub, senior counsel for the group, put this attack on religious liberty into perspective, saying, “This decision leaves health care professionals across America vulnerable to being forced to perform, facilitate or refer for procedures that violate their conscience. The Trump administration’s HHS protections would ensure that health care professionals are free to work consistent with their religious beliefs while providing the best care to their patients.”

Father Frank Pavone, national Director of Priests for Life, is cautiously optimistic that a higher court will intervene. “Once again, a judge appointed by a Democrat is standing in the way of protections for people who cannot be involved in any aspect of abortion because of deeply held religious beliefs,” Father Pavone said after Judge Engelmayer issued his ruling. “Freedom of conscience is a fundamental aspect of our human dignity. It’s what led our Founders to start this nation. And President Trump understands it well. It’s too bad Democrats don’t.” Pavone continued:

Once again, the importance of having a pro-life White House and a pro-life majority in the Senate is underscored.

I look forward to this unjust ruling being adjudicated in a higher court and I urge any health-care worker who is being pressured into participating in abortion to lodge a complaint to the Office of Civil Rights.

While Engelmayer’s ruling is certainly a setback and an indication of the times in which we live, it is not the final word. This decision will almost certainly be challenged and begin making its way through the labyrinth of federal courts. Given the spirit of the age, all religious Americans need to practice what is left of our religious liberty and pray to God for the right decision on this moving forward.



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