



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
RICK BRATTIN
124TH DISTRICT



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Majority Floor Whip
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There are values we all share as Missourians, and we, as Republicans, are committed to protecting them whenever we get the opportunity. For this reason, we have made protecting your values one of the legislative priorities in our Blueprint for Missouri. And our commitment to this issue continued this week with the passage of HB 1541.

As you may recall, we passed the pharmacy conscience bill out of the House earlier this session. HB 1541 is similar to this piece of legislation, only it applies to medical professionals and health care institutions. Simply put, this bill prohibits a medical professional or hospital from being required to perform a procedure they find morally reprehensible.

Lately, it seems that our religious values have been under attack. The other side of the aisle seems determined to foist their liberal agenda onto religious institutions, restricting a key freedom guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.

If they have their way, fewer charitable organizations will continue the important work they do on a daily basis. These organizations provide vital services to those in need, and, when faced with the choice of providing a service or doing something morally wrong, they will discontinue the services they provide. HB 1541 allows institutions to continue providing services while keeping their moral priorities intact.

The bill also touches on two issues important to you. First, HB 1541 protects individuals who find certain medical procedures like abortion religiously or morally objectionable. Here in the House, we don't think it is right for the state or federal government to impose its moral code on individuals. And nobody should ever have to choose between their religious convictions and their job.

Next, the legislation gets government off the back of hospitals by empowering them to make their own decisions. It isn't the job of the state to intrude on the freedom of any owner by determining which medical procedures they can or cannot do. HB 1541 goes a long way in keeping the heavy hand of the state out of important business decisions.

Here in the House, we know that your values are important to you, and we will continue working to preserve the principles you live by every day. HB 1541 protects the moral conscious of medical providers and keeps the state from encroaching on the freedom of health care institutions to make important decisions.

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