

April, 2024

Of continuing concern are two bills before the Illinois General Assembly that were mentioned in the previous update. One of these is HB 4867. It would amend the Illinois Human Rights Act to make it unlawful for an employer to discriminate against employees for reproductive health decisions the employees make, including deciding to have an abortion. Could it be that churches or church-related schools or charities would not be able to require that employees refrain from killing their own children via abortion? Furthermore, could a Pregnancy Resource Center be curtailed in its ability to have only employees who support its mission?

The other bill previously mentioned is SB 3499, which would create “the End-of-Life Options for Terminally Ill Patients Act.” This would legitimize certain terminally ill patients to ask their doctors to prescribe “aid-in-dying medication” to be self-administered by the patient. Since patients would take the fatal dose themselves, the bill insists that this is **not assisted suicide** – even though they would require the assistance of a physician in prescribing the drug and they would end their own lives by taking it. The slight-of-hand regarding what to call this is significant, since the state already has laws on the books for suicide prevention and since insurance companies will think differently of death due to “terminal illness” than they would of “suicide.”

Here are some other currently pending bills about which you may wish to contact your legislators. Quotations below are from a summary provided by Illinois Right to Life Action.

HB 5239 would keep the state of Illinois from providing information or spending time to assist interstate investigations that seek to impose civil or criminal liability upon someone “for the provision, or seeking of an inquiry about reproductive health care products or services (abortion).” In other words, the state government would not cooperate with other States in their civil or criminal investigations dealing with illegal abortions in their States or human trafficking of minors. Human traffickers will be more interested in bringing their victims to Illinois for abortions and possible continued abuse.

HB 4112 and SB 2639 provide for an expansion in the requirements made of insurance plans, so these plans would pay for In Vitro Fertilization (IVF). More IVF will lead to more destruction of live human embryos.

HB 5142 and SB 3665 would amend the Illinois Insurance code to require insurers to cover “all services for pregnancy, postpartum, and newborn care that are rendered by perinatal doulas or licensed certified professional midwives, including home births, home visits, and support during labor, **abortion**, or miscarriage.” The problem here is the inclusion of abortion. If pro-life legislators oppose this bill because it includes abortion, will their political opponents hold them up to criticism for failing to support midwives and doulas?