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Gutting Freedom of Conscience

Welcome to the Health Freedom Minute. This is Twila Brase, president of Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom.

On Friday, the Obama Administration rescinded most of the health care provider freedom of conscience rule put into place by the Bush administration. The only thing left is a weakened enforcement provision of several less-specific federal laws.

The Bush rule had defined a list of specific prohibitions against discrimination and coercion of doctors, medical students, and hospitals related to the refusal to conduct abortion, sterilization, and objectionable medical research.

Nearly 187,000 of 300,000 commenters opposed rescission. But the Administration eliminated all but 209 words of the 32,364-word Bush rule. In other words, only a shell of protection for freedom of conscience remains.

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The Health Freedom Minute is heard weekdays in Minnesota at 7:03 a.m., 11:03 a.m., 2:03 p.m. and 5:03 p.m. on WWTC AM1280 The Patriot.