

Testimony in Support of HB 2523
Wednesday, February 16, 2012
House Judiciary Committee

Chairman Kinzer and members of the committee,

My name is Bruce Snider, and I am an OB/GYN practicing in Johnson County for the last 20 years. I went to medical school at the University of Kansas and completed my OB/GYN residency in 1990.

During the first 15 years of my career, like all of my peers I performed sterilizations and prescribed birth control pills. While a practicing Catholic, I was comfortable in church on Sundays and in the secular world on Mondays.

That changed approximately five years ago when I made the decision to align my Catholic beliefs with my work in the medical field. I no longer perform sterilizations or prescribe oral contraceptives for birth control purposes. As the only OBGYN in Kansas who does not prescribe oral contraceptives, I can relate first hand the pressures that are brought to bear by our culture and secular world for those of us who choose to not violate our religious beliefs while working in the medical field.

While it has been difficult at times, I have felt blessed to live in a country where we are free to practice our faith without the fear of reprisals from our government. This has all changed with the recent developments on the national level.

As you're aware, the recent mandate by the HHS has removed the conscience objection clause in regards to health insurance coverage. It does not take a strong imagination to believe the next step at the federal level will be to require that all physicians and related health care providers would be required to perform procedures or prescribe medications which are in direct conflict with their religious beliefs.

Due to these concerns, anything that can be done at the state level to strengthen our laws to protect those with conscience objections would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Bruce Snider, MD
20375 West 151st Street
Suite 250
Olathe Kansas
913-764-6262

