

Peter Wolfgang, President
Family Institute of Connecticut Action
Testimony in Opposition to HB 6818



As President of Family Institute of Connecticut Action, I OPPOSE HB 6818, AN ACT CONCERNING PATIENT ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE as an unnecessary burden on religious objectors and infringing on the First Amendment rights of health care providers. It may also violate federal laws prohibiting [“discrimination under, any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under \[the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant\].”](#)

As you may be aware, Connecticut receives funds through the federal Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant. According to the “needs assessment” included with our state’s [2021 application for Title V funds](#), Connecticut uses those funds, in part, to fund the contraception portion of the Personal Responsibility Education Program and also Planned Parenthood. The contraception funded is likely to include the “hormonal contraceptives and emergency contraception” targeted by this bill.

Forcing “medical providers” to violate their religious beliefs under threat of “disciplinary or administrative action” (sec. 4) and selective administrative burdens (sec 4.3) as contemplated by this bill may be “discrimination” as prohibited by the religious nondiscrimination provisions of 42 U.S.C. sec. 708(a)(2) of Title V of the Social Security Act.

Based on these issues I strongly urge you to oppose HB 6818.