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For immediate release

Removal of medical conscience clause ‘unconscionable,’ James Lansberry says

PEORIA, Ill. — An officer of Samaritan Ministries International says that the proposed removal of a federal conscience clause for medical workers asked to participate in abortion is “unconscionable.”

The Obama administration announced Feb. 27, 2009, that it is “reviewing” a federal regulation put into place by President George W. Bush that protects health care workers who do not perform abortion procedures or other activities that violate their sincerely held beliefs. The rule codified the protection for those who work at medical facilities that receive federal funding, including Medicare and Medicaid.

Conservative News Service says the review is the first step “toward rescinding the rule altogether.”

James Lansberry, vice president of Samaritan Ministries, says that regardless of whether a person supports or opposes abortion, it is unconscionable to forbid doctors to “choose” (in “pro-choice” jargon) to refuse to perform medical procedures that violate their personal moral convictions. “The federal government should be protecting the freedom of all citizens, including those who provide our medical care, not forcing its beliefs on them,” Lansberry says.

Furthermore, Lansberry contends that women in the stressful position of having an unexpected pregnancy should put themselves in their baby’s tiny shoes and think, “What choice would I want my mother to make — to save or take my life?”

Lansberry reminds President Obama that his own mother opted to choose life during very difficult times and circumstances when it appeared her son might have a bleak future. Instead, today he is sitting in The White House. He needs to allow doctors to give today’s babies the same opportunity for life.

Samaritan Ministries is a health care needs-sharing organization founded in 1994. It includes 13,000 member households around the world. For more information about SMI or to contact James Lansberry, call 1-888-268-4377.

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