

New Jersey Hospital Forces Nurses to Assist in Abortions

A hospital in New Jersey is facing legal action for forcing nurses to involuntarily participate in abortions.

The Alliance Defense Fund is representing twelve nurses in a lawsuit filed Monday against their employer, a hospital run by the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Federal and state law both protect the nurses.

“Pro-life nurses shouldn’t be forced to assist in abortions against their beliefs,” said ADF Legal Counsel Matt Bowman. “No less than 12 nurses have encountered threats to their jobs at this hospital ever since a policy change required them to participate in the abortions regardless of their religious objections. That is flatly illegal.”

According to the ADF, federal law prohibits hospitals that receive certain federal funds from forcing employees to participate in abortions. UMDNJ receives approximately \$60 million in federal funds annually. In addition, New Jersey law states, “No person shall be required to perform or assist in the performance of an abortion or sterilization.”

The hospital initiated a policy change in September and began telling Same Day Surgery Unit nurses that they must assist abortions. UMDNJ imposed the policy on the nurses in October and repeatedly threatened that they must assist abortions or be terminated.

A supervisor told one nurse who objected to assisting abortions on the ground of her religious beliefs that UMDNJ has “no regard for religious beliefs” of nurses who object to participating in the baby-killing procedures.

The hospital scheduled the nurses to begin training to assist

abortions on Oct. 14. The training involves actually assisting surgical abortions, which the nurses believe is, in the words of the U.S. Supreme Court, “an act of violence against innocent human life.”

If the court does not issue an order requested by ADF attorneys that stops the training sessions while the lawsuit moves forward, the nurses and their colleagues will continue to be scheduled one by one to undergo the training and then to assist abortions on a regular basis. The lawsuit also requests that the hospital be ordered to return part of the federal taxpayer money it has received in light of its violation of federal law.