

Federal Court Shields Catholic Nuns from New York Assisted Suicide Law

A federal court has temporarily shielded several Catholic religious orders and healthcare ministries from being forced to participate in New York's new assisted suicide law, marking an early victory for religious liberty advocates fighting the state's mandate, according to a report from Breitbart.

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York approved a temporary agreement preventing the state from enforcing the law against the Catholic ministries while their lawsuit moves forward. The law is scheduled to take effect Wednesday.

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, representing the ministries, argues that New York's law violates the First Amendment by requiring faith-based healthcare providers to refer patients for assisted suicide, even if they object on religious grounds.

"Forcing Catholic nuns to participate in suicide – and robbing New Yorkers of the choice to receive faithful, life-affirming care – is both unlawful and unjust," said Mark Rienzi, president of Becket and lead attorney for the healthcare ministries. "This agreement protects the sisters and those they care for while we fight to end New York's suicide mandate for good."



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The lawsuit was filed on behalf of the Carmelite Sisters, Dominican Sisters, Benedictine Sisters, Little Sisters of the Poor, Bishop John Barres of the Diocese of Rockville Centre

and Catholic Health.

According to the complaint, healthcare providers who refuse to participate in counseling or referrals for assisted suicide could face fines, professional discipline and even criminal penalties.

“There is a tendency in our society to treat the elderly as if they are a burden,” Mother Alice Marie Monica of the Little Sisters of the Poor said in a statement. “This temporary protection allows us to keep showing them that they are wanted, loved, and precious in God’s eyes.”

Every human life is created in the image of God and possesses inherent dignity from conception until natural death. Assisted suicide stands in direct opposition to the sanctity of life given to us by our Creator, making this case a significant battle over both religious freedom and the biblical conviction that life is a sacred gift entrusted by God.

James Lasher, a seasoned writer and editor at Charisma Media, combines faith and storytelling with a journalism background from Otterbein University and ministry experience in Guatemala and at the LA Dream Center. A Marine Corps and Air Force veteran, he is the author of *The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man’s Commentary* and a contributor to Charisma magazine. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.