

Maine Health Care Workers Return to US Supreme Court

Liberty Counsel has filed an application for injunction pending disposition of the petition for writ of certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of more than 2,000 Maine health care workers.

Liberty Counsel will also file the petition for writ of certiorari asking the high court to review the case since there is now a split in the circuits, with the 1st Circuit (governing Maine) denying injunctive relief and the 2nd Circuit (governing New York), granting injunctive relief regarding virtually identical factual and legal issues. The governors of both states issued executive orders mandating that all health care workers get the COVID shots. They further stated that there would be no religious exemptions considered even though federal law protecting the sincerely held religious beliefs of employees preempts state law.

However, Liberty Counsel is asking the high court for immediate relief for these health care workers until it decides to review this case.

Tuesday, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer denied the emergency injunction pending appeal without prejudice, meaning he left the door open for Liberty Counsel to refile if the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals denied relief on the merits of the preliminary injunction appeal or if the 1st Circuit did not rule by Oct. 29. Shortly thereafter on the same day, the 1st Circuit did rule and denied the merits of the preliminary injunction appeal.

Now that the 1st Circuit issued its final decision, Liberty Counsel again filed a request for an emergency injunction pending disposition of a petition for certiorari. The petition

for certiorari will be filed later. The Supreme Court's intervention is necessary because of the immediate emergency and current split decisions among the circuit courts of appeal.

Gov. Mills has threatened to revoke the licenses of all health care employers who fail to mandate that all employees receive the COVID-19 injection, despite the unconstitutional fact that she is discriminating against religious employees who decline vaccination while favoring those who decline for secular, medical reasons. The governor originally stated health care workers must receive a COVID-19 injection by Oct. 1 and then extended the deadline for compliance to Oct. 29. *However, this required that plaintiffs had to accept the first injection that violates their sincerely held religious beliefs by no later than Friday, Oct. 15, 2021.*

Liberty Counsel founder and Chairman Mat Staver said, "We have returned to the U.S. Supreme Court to obtain relief for these health care heroes against Gov. Janet Mills' illegal edict. There is no question that Gov. Janet Mills cannot nullify federal law and the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. All Maine health care workers have the legal right to request reasonable accommodation for their sincerely held religious beliefs." {eo}

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