



# Bioethics Public Policy Report July 2024

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The Bioethics Public Policy Report is a collaboration between dioceses, parishes, Knights of Columbus councils, grassroots organizations, and The National Catholic Bioethics Center to inform the laity about developments in bioethics and human dignity.

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## *National*

- The Biden administration has launched a tool for reporting violations of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA). This comes at a time when the administration is fighting a legal battle with Idaho over whether EMTALA extends to abortions in emergency rooms.
- Senators Katie Britt (R-AL) and Ted Cruz (R-TX) introduced a bill protecting the in vitro fertilization industry, mistakenly calling it pro-family. Under the bill, access to Medicaid would be denied to any state banning IVF. The bill failed to pass the Senate.
- While Republican legislators have taken out language restricting the chemical abortion drug mifepristone from the spending bill for the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), they have used pro-life language in the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The act will include the Hyde Amendment, thereby restricting the use of federal taxpayer dollars to be used for abortion.



## *Federal Courts*

- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is suing the Biden administration over new rules that could require it and other Catholic employers to provide workplace accommodations for women seeking abortions. Under new regulations issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to implement the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, all employers could be required to explicitly grant leave so that their pregnant workers may get an abortion.
- The Supreme Court unanimously ruled against the case of the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine (AHM) challenging the FDA's regulations of mifepristone. The decision was rendered on the basis of the Court's constitutional standing doctrine, which requires that the plaintiff have a concrete and particularized injury-in-fact. The Court stated that AHM has no such injury, because its members do not prescribe mifepristone. This decision was not decided on the merits of the case regarding the regulation itself.
- A Michigan Catholic parish is appealing in federal court for its right to hire employees who abide by Catholic teachings. Under the Michigan civil rights statute, sex now includes sexual orientation and gender identity, which would require Catholic churches to hire those living lifestyles incompatible with Catholic teaching on human sexuality.



## *States*

- Within just a few weeks of installing a new safe haven baby box, Little Rock, Arkansas, has seen two babies dropped off. The initiative is from the Safe Haven Baby Boxes organization, which works with fire stations to install the boxes.
- A parental rights law went into effect in Washington State that will require schools to inform parents of what is happening to their children at school and to give them the power to opt out of any assignments relating to sexuality. Critics say that the measure could be harmful to children by restricting their access to birth control, referrals for abortions, or counseling for gender identity issues, sexual assault, or domestic violence, even though the law does not restrict access to anything.

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For the full report, visit [www.ncbcenter.org/bioethics-public-policy-reports](http://www.ncbcenter.org/bioethics-public-policy-reports).