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Louisiana Health Care Rights of Conscience Protected!

HB 517 Passes Louisiana Legislature and heads to Governor Jindal.

Baton Rouge, LA - The Louisiana Legislature has placed its stamp of approval on a measure to grant additional protections to the conscience rights of health care professionals in Louisiana.

On Wednesday, June 23rd, HB 517, authored by Representative LeBas (D-Ville Platte), was approved by the House of Representatives with a vote of 88-12. A day earlier, the measure passed the Senate by a vote of 31-2, where it was carried by Senator Jody Amedee (D-Gonzales).

HB 517, which has been in the Governor's "packet" of legislation since the beginning of the session, now heads to the desk of Governor Jindal to receive his signature.

Benjamin Clapper, Executive Director of Louisiana Right to Life Federation, said the following on the passage of HB 517, "The passage of the Louisiana's Health Care Rights of Conscience Act gives Louisiana's health care professionals, both present and future, the ability to excel in their profession without concerns that they will be coerced into providing some service that is against their conscience."

Clapper continued, "Even though this legislation received sustained attacks from Planned Parenthood and the ACLU, Louisiana understood that conscience rights should be protected in both the public and private sector, especially when the Obama Administration is moving to rescind federal protections on conscience."

"We consider the passage of this Health Care Rights of Conscience Act a pro-life victory that again shows why Louisiana is one of the most pro-life states in the country," Clapper concluded.

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Louisiana Right to Life Federation (LARTL), established in 1970, works through education and legislation to restore the right to life in Louisiana by opposing abortion, euthanasia, and other life destroying actions.

