

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter to tell you my story and how it relates to Senate Bill 136. In September, 2012 I accepted a Registered Nurse position at a local health department. I spent the next two months completing orientation and training in three different programs at that facility. I truly loved my position and was excited for the upcoming years as I started my career as a Registered Nurse. In late December, 2012 that all started to change. I was told I would be starting training in the family planning program at the health department within the next few weeks. When I accepted this position I knew that there was a family planning clinic but since it was not one of my programs from the start, it was not even in my perception.

Over the next month I spent many hours doing research, including contacting my priest who referred me to a Catholic Physician in the area. I knew my heart told me that the principles which the family planning clinic were based on were against my beliefs, but I wanted support to reinforce my beliefs. Upon speaking with the physician, he referred me to a bioethics educator who then gave me resources which I could use to support my beliefs. The Michigan Catholic Conference was just one of the many groups that I contacted regarding the political side of the Catholic Church's teachings on this issue.

In the end, everyone whom I contacted gave me what I needed to support my beliefs and to follow my conscience. Even as much as I loved the rest of my job, I knew I could not be a part of the family planning program and the duties such a nurse would have to perform. The decision to resign was one of the hardest in my life thus far. My only prayer is that no one will have to make the decision that I had to and will be able to perform their job without denying their beliefs. Therefore, I support am in support of Senate Bill 136.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jenni Polfus