

Patient Abandonment Bill AB 207

AB 207 gives health care professionals the RIGHT to refuse to provide services, information or referrals based on the professional's personal belief system—even if the refusal harms or kills a patient.

- AB 207 prevents a patient, or a patient's family, from filing a medical malpractice suit against a health care professional whose refusal results in patient harm or even death.
- AB 207 also prevents a health care professional from being disciplined for his or refusal—even if the doctor's behavior results in patient harm or death.

AB 207 allows doctors, nurses and pharmacists to ABANDON patients just because their personal belief system is against abortion, birth control, infertility treatments, or stem-cell research.

- AB 207 would allow a pediatrician to refuse to provide parents with vaccination information because of the doctor's belief that abortion is wrong (and some vaccines originally derived from fetal tissue).
- AB 207 does not require a health care worker to refer patients to another worker who can provide them with information or services.
- AB 207 endangers women's lives by allowing physicians to withhold abortion referral information even when a woman may die if she continues her pregnancy.
- AB 207 denies women access to birth control by allowing pharmacists who (incorrectly) believe that birth control causes an abortion to refuse to fill birth control prescriptions.
 - The Neil Noesen incident in Menomonee is a prime example of the type of behavior that will be supported under this bill.
- AB 207 denies women access to infertility services, because it allows a doctor who has a personal objection to in vitro fertilization to refuse women and their families with information about or referrals to infertility clinics.

AB 207 takes away a family's right to make important medical decisions for incapacitated loved ones.

- In the absence of a health care power of attorney, AB 207 allows a physician to ignore the wishes of a family who decides to withhold hydration and nutrition from a loved one in a persistent vegetative state. The physician does not have to locate someone else to carry out the family's wishes or refer to the patient to another provider.

AB 207 protects doctors who violate their ethical duty to take no action which harms patients or the public.

- AB 207 guts patient protection laws that require doctor's to give them information about all available modes of treatment and the risks and benefits associated with such treatment.
- AB 207 prevents patients from filing a medical malpractice lawsuit against a provider whose actions harm or kill that patient.

Fact Sheet

AB 207 forces employers to hire employees who refuse to perform basic functions of his or her job, even if this refusal has devastating financial effects on the employer.

- **Example:** An employer engaged in stem cell research could be forced to hire someone who personally opposes the use of stem cells in research and is unwilling to perform tasks crucial to her job and the employers business.
- **Example:** A fertility clinic could be forced to hire an employee who has a moral opposition to common infertility treatments, such as in vitro fertilization.
- **Example:** Family planning clinics could be forced to hire someone who opposes providing information about and dispensing birth control.