



FACT SHEET ***March for Life v. Burwell***

ABOUT THE CASE

March for Life is a non-profit pro-life organization founded in 1973 following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision legalizing abortion in *Roe v. Wade*. Every year in January, March for Life holds a peaceful march to the U.S. Supreme Court and Capitol Hill to mark the decision until it is overturned. The organization's sincere moral beliefs on abortion forbid it from furthering abortion through health insurance coverage it offers to its employees, including by hormonal birth-control items it believes can endanger early embryos. March for Life's beliefs are based on morality and science, but not on religion as such. It claims that the government is acting irrationally by imposing its abortion-pill mandate on a pro-life organization and women who do not want it. This coercive mandate forces employers, regardless of their moral convictions, to provide insurance coverage for abortion-inducing drugs, sterilization, and contraception under threat of heavy financial penalties through the IRS. Because it violates March for Life's constitutionally protected freedoms, Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys filed suit on the organization's behalf in July 2014.

STATUS AS OF 2014-11-05

Oral arguments concerning March for Life's motion for a permanent injunction will be heard at the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on Nov. 6, 2014.

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

- Whether pro-life organizations have the freedom to offer health insurance coverage that does not violate their beliefs.
- Whether non-profit organizations will remain free to operate according to their convictions or be forced by the government to violate their beliefs in order to exist.
- Whether the government will be permitted to exercise raw, coercive power over the conscience and convictions of every American who engages in non-profit activity.

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ABOUT Alliance Defending Freedom

Alliance Defending Freedom is an alliance-building, non-profit legal organization that advocates for the right of people to freely live out their faith.

ABOUT Matt Bowman

Matt Bowman serves as senior legal counsel with Alliance Defending Freedom, where he is a key member of the Center for Life. Before joining ADF in 2006, Bowman clerked for several federal judges, including the Honorable Samuel A. Alito, Jr., at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit. He is admitted to the bar in Michigan, the U.S. Supreme Court, the District of Columbia, and numerous other federal courts. Practicing law since 2003, Bowman obtained his J.D. summa cum laude from Ave Maria School of Law.