

## NIFLA v. Schneider

**Case Name:** *NIFLA v. Schneider*

**Case Status:** Temporary injunction issued on July 19, 2017

**Significance:** Whether the state of Illinois can force pro-life medical professionals and pregnancy centers to promote abortion.



### Background:

In 2016, Illinois enacted SB 1564, a law that forces pro-life doctors and pregnancy centers to refer for abortions, regardless of their objections. Alliance Defending Freedom represents pro-life pregnancy centers and medical professionals in a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of this law. While pro-life medical professionals believe that abortion ends the life of an unborn child, SB 1564 would force them to lie and tell women there are “benefits” to abortion. The government should not force medical professionals to choose between violating the law and violating the Hippocratic Oath to do no harm. The law targets pregnancy centers specifically because the government dislikes their views, which the Supreme Court has consistently held is unconstitutional.

### Key Points

- Pro-life medical professionals and pregnancy centers should remain free to offer life-saving help to the women and children they serve.
- Laws that compel speech—like SB 1564—are contrary not only to the First Amendment but to the very heart of our Constitution, which protects the rights of all people no matter what their beliefs are.
- Pro-life pregnancy centers provide free practical resources, information, and emotional support to women – no matter what choices those women make.

### Key Facts

- The state of Illinois manufactured this law specially to target pro-life medical professionals and pregnancy centers because it dislikes their views.
- SB 1564 forces those who have a personal objection to abortion to refer women to abortion providers and state that abortion has “benefits” and is a viable “treatment option” for pregnancy. This defeats the very purpose of life-saving pregnancy centers.
- In *NIFLA v. Becerra*, the Supreme Court affirmed that the government cannot force pro-life pregnancy centers to refer for abortion.

**The Bottom Line:** The government should not force anyone to express a message that violates their convictions.