



‘Something People of Faith Can’t Sacrifice’

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Focus on the Family

In California, churches aren’t the only groups facing government efforts to force them into complicity in abortion. Under a law that took effect Jan. 1, pro-life pregnancy-resource centers in the state are required to prominently post or deliver to clients information on where they can get abortions—and on how to find out if they qualify for state aid to pay for it. A first violation of the law can bring a fine of \$500; then \$1,000 for every other refusal.

Alliance Defending Freedom is among the legal groups representing pregnancy-resource centers fighting the law in court. At press time, none had yet succeeded in getting courts to put the law on hold pending the resolution of the cases. But ADF Senior Counsel Matt Bowman, who’s seeking to have the law overturned by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, says it’s a blatant violation of the First Amendment.

“It’s bad enough if the government engages in censorship and tells you what you can’t say, but a law that tells you what you must say—under threat of severe punishment—is even more unjust and dangerous,” he explains. “Other courts around the country have halted these kinds of measures because they have found them to be unconstitutional.”

Indeed they have. ADF has won several of those cases in recent years against New York City (*Pregnancy Care Center of New York v. City of New York*), Austin, Texas (*Austin LifeCare v. City of Austin*) and Montgomery County, Md. (*Centro Tepeyac v. Montgomery County*).

Outside California’s borders, efforts to coerce pro-lifers into violating their consciences also are picking up. The American Civil Liberties Union recently sued a large Catholic medical chain, Trinity Health—which operates 93 hospitals and 120 continuing-care facilities in 22 states—for refusing to perform abortions on babies the ACLU alleges were near death. To read more, go to <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/socialissues/citizen-magazine/something-people-of-faith-cant-sacrifice>