

# OPPOSE

# SB 83

## HEALTHCARE DISCRIMINATION LAW

### SB 83 WOULD CREATE CHAOS IN HEALTHCARE

- **SB 83 would allow any worker in a healthcare setting to deny service or refuse to perform their job for any reason without repercussion. It also would allow insurance companies to refuse to pay for any service based on any grounds.**
- **79% of Kentuckians oppose SB 83, according to a Mason-Dixon Poll conducted Feb. 1-4, 2021.**
- **Three federal judges struck down a similar U.S. Department of Health and Human Services rule in three separate rulings in November 2019.**
- **The definition of “conscience” is so broad it allows for *any* type of belief to be used to deny healthcare service or refuse to do a job in a hospital or medical office:**

From SB 83: *“Conscience’ means the religious, moral, ethical, or philosophical beliefs or principles held by any medical practitioner, healthcare institution, or healthcare payer. Conscience with respect to institutional entities or corporate bodies, as opposed to individual persons, is determined by reference to that entity or body’s governing documents, including but not limited to any published religious, moral, ethical, or philosophical guidelines or directives, mission statements, articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, or regulations;”*
- **The definition of “Medical Practitioner” is so broad it applies to *any* worker in a healthcare setting, from doctors, nurses, and pharmacists, to ambulance drivers, dietitians, receptionists, even janitorial staff:**

From SB 83: *“This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, practitioners, physician’s assistants, nurses, nurse’s aides, allied health professionals, medical assistants, hospital employees, clinic employees, nursing home employees, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and employees, medical school faculty and students, nursing home faculty and students, psychology and counseling faculty and students, medical researchers, laboratory technicians, counselors, social workers, or any other person who facilitates or participates in the provision of healthcare to any person”*
- **Some examples of how SB 83 could be used:**
  - A receptionist could refuse to check in a patient who is receiving an HIV test.
  - A counselor could refuse to provide grief counseling to a same-sex couple where one spouse has been diagnosed with cancer because it would involve “same-sex marriage counseling.”
  - A medical researcher could refuse to publish the results of a state funded study because the scientific evidence was in conflict with the researcher’s beliefs.

