

Members of the Kentucky General Assembly
Kentucky Capitol
700 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601

February 2021

Dear Members of the Kentucky General Assembly,

Together we write to you with grave concerns about Senate Bill 83, which could be used to harm Kentucky's marginalized communities—women, people of color, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities, immigrants, people with substance abuse disorder, and more.

By allowing any worker in a healthcare setting to deny services based on philosophical or religious beliefs, Senate Bill 83 opens a door to innumerable objections by employees, who could utilize the law to refuse to do their jobs without any repercussions. This is especially troublesome in the midst of a global pandemic.

This could create chaos in Kentucky's healthcare system and send the wrong message to people who need medical care, making them worry they could be turned away from a hospital or doctor's office. That fear could drive people to delay necessary medical treatments, negatively affecting the health of our commonwealth.

Kentucky cannot afford to pass a law that many perceive to allow discrimination. It makes our great state less attractive to prospective employers, their workers, and their families.

We respectfully ask that you not pass Senate Bill 83 and are open to joining a conversation about alternative ways to move forward.

Sincerely,

ACLU-KY - The American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky
Civitas, Regional LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce
Fairness Campaign
KASAP - Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs
KCADV - The Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence
KCC - Kentucky Council of Churches
KPA - Kentucky Psychological Association
Kentucky Mental Health Coalition
NASW KY - National Association of Social Workers - Kentucky Chapter