

RESUMO - BIOÉTICA

PROTECTING CONSCIENCE RIGHTS IN MEDICAL TRAINING: AN EXPERIENCE REPORT ON THE IMPORTANCE, CHALLENGES, AND EMERGING LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR U.S. TRAINEES

Ashley Best (ashleybest333@gmail.com)

Conscience protections in medicine allow healthcare professionals to decline participation in interventions that conflict with their moral, ethical, or religious beliefs. Though some legal protections are in place, trainees often encounter morally controversial procedures as part of core requirements. This experience report dives into emerging research conducted on residency programs and its faculty across the United States regarding conscience protections for their trainees and the ethical dilemmas faced during their own training. Empirical evidence demonstrates that trainees (especially in family medicine, OB/GYN, and various surgical residencies) routinely encounter moral conflicts during residency training and perceive great risk of negative repercussions for asserting conscience rights. While current U.S. federal laws offer broad protections for practicing clinicians particularly in terms of abortion, sterilization, and end-of-life care, protections explicitly for trainees and for other diverse ethical interventions remain underdeveloped. Emerging federal bills and state conscience law initiatives are discussed including the Conscience Protections for Medical

Residents Act on a national level and the Medical Ethics Defense (MED), also known as the Medical Ethics and Diversity, Act on a state level. These two up-and-coming bills attempt to aid the next generation of physicians in pursuing a career in medicine guided by both integrity and competence and aim to serve as a legislative example for other nations eager to follow suit.

Palavras-chave: conscience protections; trainees; residency; bills; legislation; united states.