

## The *CompassCare* Case

**Case Name:** *CompassCare v. Hochul*

**Case Status:** Oral argument to be held at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals on Dec. 14, 2023.

**Significance:** Whether the government can force a pro-life organization to employ someone who undermines their mission.



**Background:** The State of New York enacted S-660, a law requiring religious organizations and groups to employ individuals who violate the mission of the organization. This includes religious pro-life groups and health care providers, such as pro-life pregnancy centers associated with [CompassCare Pregnancy Services](#) and the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA). It also includes churches like First Bible Baptist Church, who firmly believe that human life is sacred and worthy of protection from the moment of conception. Pregnancy centers like CompassCare serve women by providing all the facts a woman needs to truly make a fully informed decision, including facts about a baby's development, a woman's options during pregnancy, and the consequences of exercising those various options. The government should protect freedom, not take it away, and that's why Alliance Defending Freedom filed suit on behalf of CompassCare, NIFLA, and First Bible Baptist Church.

### Key Points

- Forcing organizations to violate their beliefs has no place in a free society.
- The government can't tell a pro-life ministry to employ someone who doesn't agree with their mission.
- CompassCare—not the state—knows best how to serve the women who walk through their doors.

### Key Facts

- By passing SB 660, New York demeans and interferes with religious pro-life pregnancy centers and other faith-based organizations, like Catholic hospitals, religious schools, and even churches, by ordering them to violate their beliefs.
- Pregnancy centers serve women in part by providing all the information a woman needs to make a fully informed decision, including facts about a baby's development, a woman's options during pregnancy, and the harms of abortion. Employing a pro-abortion employee would thwart their ability to accomplish their life-affirming mission.

### This law is like...

- ...forcing a Democrat to hire a Republican speechwriter.
- ...forcing PETA to employ an employee that hunts on the weekends.
- ...forcing Planned Parenthood to hire a pro-life doctor.

**The Bottom Line:** The government can't force a pro-life ministry to employ someone who violates its mission.