

National Federation of Democratic Women

Resolution to Oppose the New HHS Conscience and Religious Freedom Division

WHEREAS, the new Conscience and Religious Freedom Division of the Department of Health and Human Services allows medical professionals, legal professionals, and adoption agencies to discriminate based on personal religious beliefs such as objections to abortions or gender reassignment surgery or to adoption by gay people or disapproval of any protected class; and

WHEREAS, all Americans are entitled to the aforementioned services without religious judgment or discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the known impact of such discrimination has had proven detrimental effects on the safety and economic stability of women, the LGBTQ community, at-risk youth, and poor and working class families; and

WHEREAS, the creation of this HHS Division violates the anti-discrimination tenets of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act; and

WHEREAS, the *New England Journal of Medicine* states that “leaders of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have framed ‘conscience’ in a one-sided way, making it yet another issue dividing Americans largely along partisan lines”; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women opposes this Conscience and Freedom of Religion Division of HHS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NFDW calls upon Congress to oppose the creation of this office.

Submitted by the Washington State Federation of Democratic Women from the floor on June 16, 2018

Adopted by the NFDW Membership at the 47th National Convention on June 16, 2018