

PROTECT PATIENTS' RIGHTS – MEET PATIENTS' NEEDS –PRESERVE CHOICES IN HEALTHCARE!

Our local hospitals (Skagit Valley Hospital in Mount Vernon, Island Hospital in Anacortes, and Cascade Valley Hospital in Arlington) and their related clinics are in the process of choosing a partnership with a larger healthcare system. They have identified five hospital systems as potential partners, three of which are non-sectarian and two of which are owned and operated by the Catholic Church.

Catholic hospitals and associated medical clinics are required by the church hierarchy to observe a set of rules called the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Service*. These directives prohibit many types of medical procedures:

- Contraception, including The Pill, IUDs, and emergency contraception
- Sterilization procedures such as vasectomies and tubal ligations
- Fertility treatments such as *in vitro* fertilization, artificial insemination, and surrogacy
- Abortion, including in the case of extrauterine (ectopic) pregnancies, rape, or incest
- Participation in the Death with Dignity Act (DWDA) provisions
- Participation in any other end-of-life Advanced Directives that the bishops deem to violate the moral teachings of the Catholic Church

If our three hospitals choose a partnership with a Catholic healthcare provider, then all Western Washington hospitals from the Canadian border to King County will be bound by the bishops' *Directives* and the above-listed medical procedures will be unavailable in that vast area.

We ask, therefore, that you join us in signing this petition to the hospital commissioners

Please return signed petitions to: People For Healthcare Freedom, 60793 Dexter Ln., Marblemount, WA 98267, United States