



MINNESOTA FAMILY COUNCIL  
STRENGTHENING FAMILIES. ADVANCING TRUTH.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 30, 2014

Contact: Autumn Leva  
(612) 212-0420

## Victory for Religious Freedom at the Supreme Court

Minneapolis - Today, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that American families do not surrender their right to religious freedom when they run a family business in the long-awaited decision on the "Hobby Lobby case."

In an unprecedented intrusion on religious freedom rights, the Obama Administration attempted to force family businesses to pay for the coverage of sterilizations, contraception, and drugs that have the potential to destroy an unborn child through the so-called "HHS Mandate" under Obamacare.

The Green family, a Christian family who owns Hobby Lobby, and the Hahn family, the owners of Conestoga Wood Specialties, filed lawsuits challenging the HHS Mandate.

"Forcing a family business owner to buy abortion drugs for someone under the threat of massive IRS fines is an unprecedented intrusion on religious freedom. The Supreme Court affirmed today that the Constitution protects Americans from being forced by government to abandon their faith as a condition for earning a living," said John Helmberger, CEO of Minnesota Family Council.

"We are thankful that the Supreme Court ruled that the Obama Administration's HHS mandate is an unlawful violation against religious freedom. Families who decide to operate a business will no longer have to choose between violating their deeply held beliefs and complying with a government mandate by paying for drugs and services to which they object, or paying crushing fines of up to \$100 *per day, per employee*."

"While we celebrate this landmark decision, it is our hope that lower courts will follow the Supreme Court's lead and protect religious non-profits like Little Sisters of the Poor, Priests for Life, and Wheaton College from the unlawful HHS Mandate," concluded Helmberger.

*\*In October 2013, Minnesota Family Council, Minnesota Catholic Conference, Transform Minnesota, and Alliance Defending Freedom hosted the first Minnesota Religious Freedom Forum at which Michael McAfee, Director of Faith Initiatives for Hobby Lobby and member of the Hobby Lobby founding family, said: **"God is responsible for the past and future of Hobby Lobby. Our faith in Jesus influences every decision we make. This company is not ours to do with what we want."***

*After a long fight for their family's religious freedom rights (and those of countless other American families of faith) and facing the prospect of losing the company their family bravely launched three generations ago, the entire Green family has finally received the affirmation of religious freedom for all. We can all rest easier tonight knowing that Americans need not check their faith at the office door.*

###

Minnesota Family Council  
2855 Anthony Lane South, Minneapolis MN, 55418-3265  
Phone 612.789.8811 / FAX 612.789.8858

[www.mfc.org](http://www.mfc.org) | Sign up for alerts!

find us on:    