



Discrimination?
Corporate loopholes?
Law avoidance?

Hobby Lobby's slippery slope

This summer, in *Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. v. Sebelius*, the Supreme Court will decide whether the owners of a for-profit, secular corporation can impose their religious beliefs on their employees.

A poorly decided *Hobby Lobby* ruling could serve as a slippery slope, shifting our constitutional protections for genuine religious beliefs into loopholes that can be used to discriminate, dictate women's health choices, and avoid federal protections, which would promote unfair advantages for corporations that claim religious beliefs.

A Supreme Court ruling in favor of Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. could:



Allow corporations to deny coverage of important medical procedures,

such as blood transfusions, vaccinations, and psychiatric medication, because their religious beliefs do not permit such care.



Lead to market-distorting effects.

For-profit corporations could use their religious beliefs to avoid compliance with federal rules, leading to an unfair financial advantage over secular business competitors.



Codify discrimination into law,

enabling business owners to refuse to serve or hire people—such as those in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, or LGBT, community—who do not agree with their stated religious beliefs.



Complicate corporate governance,

eroding the separation between shareholders and their corporations and throwing the existence of the corporate structure into question.



Insert your boss into your bedroom

and allow business owners' religious views about family planning to dictate health care decisions that should be up to employees.

Religious liberty is a fundamental right and one that everyone must honor. That includes the freedom from having the theological doctrines of our bosses or business owners in our communities forced upon us.