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194/1978 – 160/2011: confrontations, contexts and contentions

ABSTRACT

Abortion is presently one of the hottest healthcare and bioethics related topics: the social values of motherhood and, on the other hand, abortion are valued differently in the never-ending debate sustained (amongst others) by the continuous evolution of scientific and pharmaceutical research.

The examination of the legislation on abortion (Law n.194/1978) and family planning clinics (Law n.405/1975), together with the epidemiological analysis of the consequences resulting from the enforcement of these laws, allow us to examine and discuss the draft version of the Piedmont Region Law n.160/2011, which aims to reform family planning clinics by guaranteeing the presence of volunteers from pro-life associations.

This thesis explores the different positions on the beginnings of life and on conscientious objection for medical professionals using the categories of bioethics.

The conclusions are based on a "snapshot" of the documents, proposals, motivations and actions of the two most representative groups participating in the debate: secularist and Catholic.