



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2026

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Contact for arranging interviews. For more information and downloadable statements, visit the [Hawthorne Dominican and Missionary Sisters Case](#) page.

**BENEDICTINE SISTERS JOIN DOMINICAN SISTERS IN SEEKING RELIEF FROM
NEW YORK'S GENDER IDEOLOGY RULES FOR NURSING HOMES**

Huntington, NY - Catholic Benefits Association CEO, Doug Wilson, announced that the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict and their St. Joseph's Home for the Aged are joining the lawsuit the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne filed in April against Gov. Kathy Hochul and other New York officials. Both the Dominican and Benedictine Sisters, with help from the Catholic Benefits Association, are seeking judicial relief from New York State Department of Health's transgender services and speech code mandates.

The New York LGBTQ Long-Term Care Facilities Residents' Bill of Rights requires such facilities to assign rooms by gender identity, permit residents to use restrooms designated for the opposite sex, use residents' "preferred pronouns," and accommodate their extra-marital sexual activity. It also requires the Sisters to train their members and their lay staff in "cultural competency" aligned with the State's gender ideology.

Like the Hawthorne Dominicans, the Benedictine Sisters cannot comply without violating the Catholic faith that inspired them, in the first place, to serve residents in the final months of their lives. The Benedictine Sisters operate St. Joseph's Home for the Aged, a 60-bed assisted living facility in Huntington, New York. They have served elderly, infirm residents for over 50 years, and they accept no government funding.

Bishop John Barres of the Diocese of Rockville Centre where the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict conduct their ministry, said, “I fully support the Sisters’ decision to seek relief from New York’s gender ideology mandate being imposed on nursing homes and adult care facilities. Sometimes Catholics need to take a stand for their Catholic values, and the Benedictine Sisters are doing that.”

“New York’s imposition of these mandates upon Catholic sisters is particularly egregious” Andrew Nussbaum, the Sisters’ attorney noted “because the State exempts care facilities operated by the Christian Science Church but not other religions, and because it permits secular clinical judgment but not religious clinical judgment.” This is one of the reasons why the Sisters recently filed a letter with the District Court requesting permission to move for summary judgment.

Earlier this summer, the Acting Attorney General, Todd Blanche, determined that lawsuit was one of “general public importance” and directed the U.S. Department of Justice to intervene in this lawsuit aligned with the Sisters arguing that the New York law discriminated among different religions and thereby violated the Fourteenth Equal Protection Clause.