

**From:** [Carrie Hartless](#)  
**To:** [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)  
**Subject:** Preventive Health Services  
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To whom it may concern in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

I believe health care reform should expand access to basic health care for all, not undermine that goal. The enormous effect of this mandate would be detrimental to many care facilities. Catholic institutions could only continue to operate, in accord with teaching on life and procreation, if they stopped hiring and serving non-Catholics. That would be a disservice to the general population. It seems like you are trying to pressure Catholic institutions and other non-religious, pro-life institutions to cease providing health care, education, and charitable services to the general public.

The current definition of religious employer does not provide true conscience protection for those committed to preserving life. Healthcare plans should not be forced to violate the moral and religious convictions of providers or employees in order to participate in the health care system. Requiring such an unacceptable demand threatens both universal access to health care and religious freedom of conscience.

Please revise this language and change this mandate. I do not support it.

Thank you,  
Carrie Hartless

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Blessed are we, O Israel;  
for what pleases God is known to us!  
--Baruch 4:4