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Requirement for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers to Provide Coverage of Preventive Services under the PatientProtection and Affordable Care Act

Comment On: IRS-2010-0017-0038
Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services under Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Amendment

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General Comment

As an employee of a Catholic hospital, and a Christian. I find it reprehensible that religious organizations would be forced to act in a manner which is contradictory to their beliefs in order for some outside group to further their own agendas. Under our Constitution, we all have religious freedom. Mandating religious organizations to provide coverage for birth control agents is in direct opposition to those Constitutional rights. I am strongly opposed to any law or group which would take away the freedom of faith-based organizations to operate in a manner which is consistent with their belief systems. The stand of the Catholic Church on the subject of birth control and abortion is well publicized. Anyone seeking employment opportunities at such facilities should also be aware that said facility will not provide insurance coverage of these services. This is not a secret. There are other avenues that these employees may utilize if they choose to seek such products. Please DO NOT remove, diminish or delete the conscious protections for these organizations. If anything, they should be expanded to cover all religious groups, be they Christian radio stations, or schools and hospitals. Catholic and other religious organizations have a right to operate as their morals mandate. Surely those who would wish to force birth control coverage on religious groups have no greater right than anyone else. Please reconsider your stance on this issue. If this is not reversed, and religious groups are forced to provide birth control, the government and the nation may risk losing the valuable services of many of these organizations. It is possible that some may close their doors rather than be forced to turn their backs on their faith. Just as some of the Catholic Charities organization have ceased doing adoptions rather than be forced to adopt to homosexual couples, you may see communities losing valuable services if facilities are forced to close. Thank you for your time.