

From: pamw@rc.net
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: Comment: RIN 1210-AB44
Date: Friday, September 09, 2011 10:39:28 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to ask in the strongest way possible that you rescind the unjust and coercive mandate that all "contraceptives" and sterilization procedures be covered by private health insurance with no co-pay to patients. If you will not reverse course, I ask you to expand conscience protections for organizations providing individual and group insurance and having moral or religious objections. I strongly oppose the government forcing insurance coverage on Americans especially for drugs and devices causing harm rather than healing. They are not drugs or devices which are intended to treat an illness; therefore, they should not be covered by health care insurance. I further object to including these drugs and devices because some of them can cause an abortion (such as ella and Plan B). Others such as the Combined Oral Contraceptives, better known as The Pill, are classified as Class 1 carcinogens by the World Health Organization.

If you will not change course and remove the mandate for coverage of sterilization and ?contraceptives? some of which are abortifacients, then I ask you to expand your conscience protection beyond which you have defined as ?religious employer.? Offer an authentic conscience protection for any organization, business, or individual such as myself who would not want medical insurance to include coverage of contraceptives, sterilizations, or abortions since none of these are cures or treatments for illnesses and all of them are morally objectionable. Only those things which are used to treat illnesses should be included in medical insurance coverage. This legal mandate clearly violates the spirit of conscience laws which prohibit government discrimination against those who object to various health services that are not truly health related and which are objectionable on moral or religious grounds. The current definition of "religious employer" in the regulation is so narrow as to only include churches, but will still mean that a host of businesses, organizations, and individuals having conscience objections will be required to choose between either violating their conscience or not being able to offer their employees health insurance.

Please protect the conscience rights of insurers, providers and individuals like myself who object to being forced by the federal government to offer or subsidize contraceptives and sterilization services, especially when some of these drugs are harmful to women as well as to unborn children. No Americans should be forced by the federal government to essentially subsidize services to which they object. I again urge you in the strongest way possible to reverse course and remove contraceptives and sterilizations from the list of mandatory preventive services.

Sincerely,
Pamela Wiitala
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