

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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**Docket:** EBSA-2010-0018

Interim Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

**Comment On:** EBSA-2010-0018-0002

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

The new HHS regulations on sterilization and contraception (including abortifacients) force Catholics to choose between our faith and health care. By making this insurance coverage mandatory, our government has violated the consciences of faithful Catholics and infringed on our rights to practice our religious beliefs. The regulations' religious employer exemption will not protect the hundreds of Catholic colleges, schools, and organizations which are not owned by the Church, but instead run by lay Catholics. These Catholic institutions—as well as individual Catholic employers and health insurance purchasers—are being forced by the government to violate their religious beliefs. Mandatory contraception and sterilization coverage in college student insurance plans force Catholic colleges to undermine their missions as Catholic institutions. Please repeal these regulations and protect the religious freedom of Catholics as guaranteed by the First Amendment.