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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 HHS decision to include full coverage for contraception services and counseling as preventive services is the result of sound judgment about what is good for all society. Allowing certain faith-based organizations to avoid this statute is, in fact, promoting the private interests of one religion—or even one conservative element of that religion—over the consciences of employees. This does not further their special mission to help the common good.

The inclusion of family planning as preventive health care requires no one to use it or to endorse it. Nor does it infer that its use is or is not morally legitimate. This guideline involves no restriction on anybody's freedom, religious or otherwise. Indeed, it could be argued that it allows greater freedom.

Do not allow the lobbying of religious interests, such as the Catholic Bishops, for example, to undermine and/or change the sober, reflective, and perfectly legal wording of this amendment.