

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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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

I heard the news about the new mandate from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that will require nearly all health insurance providers to fully cover birth control drugs and abortion-inducing drugs. I also heard that, coupled with this mandate is a narrow religious exemption that will only cover churches and possibly some sectarian schools and colleges. I believe that this new mandate and narrow religious exemption are terribly dangerous to the right of conscience. This mandate also has to do with homeschooling. The answer is that attacks on the right of conscience also threaten the right of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children. Our nation was founded on a principle of religious liberty and the right of conscience. This new federal mandate will require nearly all employers to fully cover the costs of birth control drugs, as well as abortion-inducing drugs, even if an employer has a conscientious or religious objection to such drugs. A government that can force an employer to violate his or her conscience or religious beliefs could one day force parents to teach their children what the government thinks children need to know, or even to put their children only into a government-approved school.

I believe this mandate is wrong and against our freedoms. Please do not allow this mandate to go through-- it is terrible! Thank you. --Miss Priscilla Spence