

# 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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## Submitter Information

**Name:** Kenneth Paul Poirier

**Address:**

22507 Sunnyside

St. Clair Shores, MI, 48080

**Email:** kpoirier3525@wowway.com

**Phone:** 586.779.0080

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## General Comment

I am opposed to the implementation of these rules. While they are intended to include an exemption to respect the conscience demands of certain religious employers, the exemption is far too narrowly drafted. As it stands, Religious employers such as Catholic hospitals or educational institutions may be required to offer health care plans which provide contraceptive or abortifacient services contrary to the moral principles of the sponsoring Catholic organization.

Please withdraw these rules, so that the conscience provision can be redrafted to more fully respect the religious freedom of employers who may not fit within the narrow guidelines currently in the rules.