

**From:** [Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger](#)  
**To:** [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)  
**Cc:** [Maria Frederick](#)  
**Subject:** I oppose the Definition of Religious Employer in Health Care Rules  
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To whom it may concern:

Please note: any US law should not violate the conscience of any individual, nor should it weaken the health care being provided to the poor of the nation by penalizing providers to the poor when those providers' consciences are founded on respect for the dignity of all human life. Any law that would do so would amount to duress, or moral force upon a system or an individual to act against their conscience. This is unAmerican and probably unconstitutional.

For example, the current definition of religious employer does not provide true conscience protection for those committed to preserving life. Health care plans should not be forced to violate the moral and religious convictions of providers or employees in order to participate in the health care system. Requiring such an unacceptable demand threatens both universal access to health care and religious freedom of conscience.

I stand in support of HR 1179 that preserves the American traditional value of the right to freedom of conscience.

Thank you.

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