

# 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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Comment on FR Doc # 2011-19684

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## General Comment

I am strongly opposed to limiting the religious exemption clause only to church employers. It should instead be tied to non-profits as described in the IRS tax code.

I have insurance through a Catholic institution with a private insurance plan. I am adamantly opposed to paying for contraception and sterilization coverage. I believe these violate the dignity of the human person and pervert the nature of the sexual act. Furthermore, emergency contraception can be used to murder nascent human life. For these reasons, I am vehemently opposed to covering contraception with my tax dollars and paying for its availability on my private insurance plan.

For centuries, Catholics have thrown a lifeline to all in need. Now that same lifeline is a rope that hangs us in these regulations. The current exemption requires that religious organizations discriminate on the basis of creed. For Catholics to close ranks and doors, excluding anyone who doesn't pass the "Catholic test" violates our foundational principles. If we are Catholic in belief, we must be catholic (universal) in our actions.

Furthermore, under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, we are barred from discriminating under penalty of losing federal funding. These regulations force us to choose between health insurance or federal aid. Either way, our religious freedom is compromised.

"Congress shall make no law" abridging the free exercise of religion. Apparently the bureaucrats in HHS think they can abridge all they want.