

From: smccart108@cox.net
To: E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA
Subject: Comment: RIN 1210-AB44
Date: Friday, September 09, 2011 9:48:23 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am strongly requesting that you immediately reverse the recent mandate that all "contraceptives" (specifically all medications and procedures that result in abortion) and sterilization procedures be covered by private health insurance with no co-pay to patients. At minimum, the conscience protections need to be greatly expanded for all organizations providing insurance that also have moral or religious objections. I personally strongly oppose being forced to pay for drugs and devices that cause abortions. As a nurse practitioner, I will not prescribe Plan B due to moral and religious objections.

I also ask you to reconsider your definition of religious employer and offer an authentic conscience protection for any organization and business that has moral or religious objection to providing such insurance to their employees. This legal mandate clearly violates the spirit of conscience laws which prohibit government discrimination against those who object to various health services on moral or religious grounds. The definition of "religious employer" in the regulation is so narrow as to only include churches, but will still mean that a host of businesses and organizations that have conscience objections will be required to choose between either violating their conscience or not being able to offer employees health insurance.

Please protect the conscience rights of insurers, providers like me, and all others who object to being forced by the federal government to offer or subsidize abortion and sterilization services. Medical and surgical abortions take the life of early unborn children. No Americans should be forced by the federal government to essentially subsidize services they object to. I again urge you in the strongest way possible to reverse course and remove "contraceptives" and sterilizations from the list of mandatory preventive services.

Sincerely,
Sondra Ferry
Santee, CA 92071