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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

The new mandate from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will require nearly all health insurance providers to fully cover birth control drugs and abortion-inducing drugs. Coupled with this mandate was a NARROW religious exemption that will only cover churches and possibly some sectarian schools and colleges. I think this new mandate and narrow religious exemption are terribly dangerous to the right of conscience.

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 is too powerful. Attacks on the right of conscience also threaten the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children.

Liberty is never taken away all at once. It is a gradual, creeping encroachment.

I think the exemption needs to be much broader.