

From: [Catherine Dowling](#)
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: Preventive-services mandate
Date: Friday, September 30, 2011 6:23:19 PM

Hello,

I oppose your new regulation that will require ALL health care plans to include contraceptive and sterilization procedures.

Pregnancy is not a disease, and drugs and surgeries to prevent it are not basic health care that the government should require all Americans to purchase. Please remove sterilization and prescription contraceptives from the list of "preventive services" the federal government is mandating in private health plans. It is especially important to exclude any drug that may cause an early abortion, and to fully respect religious freedom as other federal laws do. The narrow religious exemption in HHS's new rule protects almost no one. I urge you to allow all organizations and individuals to offer, sponsor and obtain health coverage that does not violate their moral and religious convictions.

Please do not make religious institutions, who serve and employ members who are not of their faith, choose between their desire to help the poor and their desire to follow their conscience. These institutions will end up closing their doors rather than go against their conscience.

Further, the mass promotion of contraception that the government has done in recent years has not touched the epidemic of sexually-transmitted diseases and many women who present for abortion have used contraception in the month preceding their abortion. As you know the economy is in shambles. Have you ever thought about the impact of limiting our population growth through contraception and abortion has had on our economy?

Please remove the mandate for sterilization and contraception in this new regulation.

Catherine Dowling, MD