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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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Comment on FR Doc # 2011-19684

Submitter Information

General Comment

Dear Department of Health and Human Services,

As a family from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, we are deeply concerned about the new guidelines related to the Obama administration's implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) that were unveiled on Monday, August 1 by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

We are very disturbed that the new guidelines require most health insurance plans in the United States—including those offered by private employers—to provide full access to birth control, as well as abortion-inducing drugs such as “Ella” and “the morning after pill.” “Ella” and the “morning after pill” have been shown to harm women, and actually kill the developing baby by starving it of nutrients.

Although the Obama administration also issued a regulation establishing a religious exemption to this new requirement, the proposed Religious Exemption (which violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act) is extremely narrow, and will force most religious employers to decide whether to end their insurance programs—which will hurt millions of employees across the nation—or violate their conscience by including birth control and abortion-inducing drugs in their insurance programs.

In conclusion, we urge HHS to withdraw the Interim Final Rule that created this illegally narrow religious exemption. In its place, we urge the HHS to adopt a broader religious exemption that will allow all employers who have religious and conscientious objections to providing birth

control drugs or abortion-inducing drugs to their employees to opt out of the new HRSA guidelines.

If HHS adopts these reasonable suggestions for a new religious exemption, it will demonstrate that the Department and the Obama Administration want to protect the religious freedom of all employers in the United States.

Sincerely,

A family of concerned citizens