The actions of August 1, 2011, by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) approving the final regulations for group health plans and health insurance coverage under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) mandating coverage of surgical sterilizations and all FDA-approved contraceptives (even those that cause chemical abortion) as part of “preventive care service for women.” Through insurance premiums and our taxes, forces those whom hold religious convictions on life issues to violate their conscience.

The failure to clearly provide protections to recognize this violation of conscience unjustly forces religious organizations to support treatments that consider fertility and pregnancy as a disease not as gifts from God.

Justice, freedom of Religion and conscience clauses long recognized by the government require an amendment and clarifications that protect the rights of religious organizations and conscience.

Sincerely,

Rev. Michael J. Oenbrink