

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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**Docket:** EBSA-2010-0018

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

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## Submitter Information

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## General Comment

Please allow me to express my concern over new government regulations that force some employers to pay for health care services that violate their religious convictions.

I refer specifically to the new mandate from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that will require nearly all health insurance providers to fully cover birth control and abortion-inducing drugs.

I understand soaring health care costs are a serious problem, and that some changes are needed in how these costs are borne. I also understand religious views concerning birth control vary.

Nevertheless, liberty of conscience and religious expression remain foundational to American freedoms. Encroachments upon these liberties – even subtle threats such as the kind presented by the new federal health care laws – undermine essential values all Americans hold dear.

As Virginia Baptist and patriot John Leland put it:

"Every man must give account of himself to God, and therefore every man ought to be at liberty to serve God in a way that he can best reconcile to his conscience. If government can answer for individuals at the day of judgment, let men be controlled by it in religious matters; otherwise, let men be free."