To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to ask in the strongest way possible that you the reasonable and just mandate that all "contraceptives" and sterilization procedures be covered by private health insurance with no co-pay to patients. I ask you resist any calls to expand conscience protections for any organizations that provide individual and group insurance and have moral or religious objections. I strongly support the government requiring free insurance coverage on Americans especially for drugs and devices that I support because some of these are alledged by religious extremists to cause an abortion (such as ella and Plan B).

I also ask you to retain your definition of religious employer and resist any efforts for an expanded definition of "conscience protection" to include any organization and business that has an extremist moral or religious objection to providing such insurance to their employees. The proposed legal mandate clearly supports the spirit of conscience laws which prohibit government discrimination against those who object to various health services on moral or religious grounds -- usually religious extremists who wish to impose their religious philosophy on all through government dictate. The definition of "religious employer" in the regulation is sufficient as it now stands to only include churches. There is no logical way to conclude that the definition as now drafted will mean that a host of businesses and organizations that have conscience objections will be required to choose between either violating their conscience or not being able to offer employees health insurance.

Please protect the conscience rights of insurers, providers and people like me who strongly support a public health imperative, the federal government offering or subsidizing contraceptives and sterilization services. I again urge you in the strongest way possible to stay the course and maintain contraceptives and sterilizations on the list of mandatory preventive services.

Sincerely, George Worthington , 77019-6527