PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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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

Document: EBSA-2010-0018-DRAFT-0306 Comment on FR Doc # 2011-19684

Submitter Information

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General Comment

Gentlemen,

I would like to comment of your proposed Rule implementing 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

I feel that your proposed Rule is in clear violation of United States Constitution and its mission to protect and foster freedom of citizens of this country.

1) Your rule forces insurance plans to cover "all FDA approved contraceptive methods and sterilization procedures". As a physician, I am appalled by notion that the pregnancy should be considered a disease and that the drugs and surgeries to prevent pregnancy should be considered basic health care that the government should require all Americans to purchase! PLEASE REMOVE STERILIZATION AND PRESCRIPTION CONTRACEPTIVES FROM THE LIST OF PREVENTATIVE SERVICES, the federal government is mandating in private health plans. It is especially important to exclude any drug that may cause early abortion.

2) Your rule includes religious exemption, but it covers only 'religious employer' whose main purpose is 'inculcation of religious values', employs or serves only persons who share its religious tenets and is basically church organization as defined by narrow provision of tax code. Such narrow definition would exempt NONE OF THE LARGE AND IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONS WHICH CURRENTLY PROVIDE HEALTH CARE, CHARITABLE CARE OR EDUCATIONAL EACTIVITY, and in effect would make any religiously inspired charitable activity or service to the others impossible. Even the worst laws in communist and fascist dictatorial regimes do not go that far! I urge you to allow all organizations, and individuals to offer, sponsor or obtain health coverage that does not violate their moral and religious convictions. I am hopeful that your final rule will include necessary changes, and that you will not attempt to violate in a such a drastic manner freedom of conscience of US citizens.

Bohuslav Finta, MD