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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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General Comment

In early August, the Department for Health and Human Services released guidelines that would force Catholic institutions to subsidize through their health care plans contraception and sterilization procedures.

This is a direct threat to the religious liberty of Catholics, freedom of conscience and the social service ministry of the Catholic Church. The so-called "religious exception" in the mandate is no exemption at all as it would require any Catholic institution that serves non-Catholics or employs non-Catholics to violate Catholic belief or close its doors.

I ask that you do all possible to rescind the "Preventive Service Mandate" as an unprecedented federal interference in the right of Catholics to serve their community without violating their fundamental moral beliefs.