

**From:** [Scott Beard MD](#)  
**To:** [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)  
**Subject:** right of conscience needs to be maintained  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 27, 2011 10:33:41 PM

---

How can I practice in a climate where my own conscience would be violated? People who come to me as a physician are well aware of my beliefs and how they effect my practice. They select me for that reason, others go elsewhere. I am the only OB/GYN for 60 miles in my state and if forced by loss of conscience to stop portions or all of my practice many people in my rural community will lose access, supposedly to protect a few, who also wouldn't have any access if I'm forced to quit. Your policy will cause some insurers to struggle to find ways to protect thier conscience or quit, this will limit access even further. People who don't want to be in a plan that provides what they consider immoral coverage will drop their coverage all together. I support the preventitive services requirements, but think that right of conscience needs to always be supported to offer all people access to care and not just those unwilling to stand for their beliefs

Scott Beard, MD  
417-667-6800