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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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Submitter Information

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General Comment

I have been a practicing Roman Catholic for all of my 60+ years and must comment on this proposed rule. The exemption as written is completely unacceptable, in that it violates my constitutional right to freedom of religion. The current rule makes it illegal for the various Catholic organizations to continue to operate unless A) they fire all non-catholic employees and no longer serve any non-cathoicl recipients of aid and other vital services or B) simply go out of business. In either case thousands of people would lose their jobs (hardly an acceptable outcome in today's economy) and many thousands more would lose access to vital benefits.

The exemption must be revised to enable religious based non-profits to operate according to their religious beliefs and to serve all that desire to receive the benefits available from these non-profits. No one is forced to work for them if the religious beliefs are unacceptable to a prospective employee, nor is anyone forced to accept benefits if the recipient's beliefs are contrary to those of the non-profit's.

I urge in the strongest possible voice that the exemption be revised to enable religious based non-profits to continue to operate, thus employing thousands of people and enabling many more thousands to receive vital benefits.