

From: gracebyluv@aol.com
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: Comment: RIN 1210-AB44
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2011 7:59:03 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to ask in the strongest way possible that you rescind the unjust and coercive mandate that all "contraceptives" and sterilization procedures be covered by private health insurance with no co-pay to patients. If I as a cancer patient have to pay a co-pay every time I see my doctor or have a CT or PET scan done to preserve life then certainly a voluntary decision to utilize contraception should be something where you would have to pay a co-pay. If you do not reverse course I ask you to expand conscience protections for any organizations that provide individual and group insurance and have moral or religious objections. You had conscientious objectors during military draft. People can claim conscientious objector status so they do not have to perform jury duty. If we can do it for these things then we should certainly allow for conscience protection to facilities that believe it is inherently and morally wrong to perform abortions. As a tax payer and a registered voter who exercises my right to vote I strongly object to subsidizing abortions or drugs that can cause abortions. I strongly oppose the government forcing free insurance coverage on Americans especially for drugs and devices that I oppose because some of these can cause an abortion (such as ella and Plan B).

I also ask you to reconsider your definition of religious employer and offer an authentic conscience protection for any organization and business that has moral or religious objection to providing such insurance to their employees. This legal mandate clearly violates the spirit of conscience laws which prohibit government discrimination against those who object to various health services on moral or religious grounds. The definition of "religious employer" in the regulation is so narrow as to only include churches, but will still 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. Employers already have the right to not provide coverage for treatments for serious medical conditions such as obesity or smoking cessation. If they can refuse to cover these issues for monetary reasons then a religious organization should be able to have the right to not cover treatment for medical conditions when that treatment violates their religious and moral beliefs.

Please protect the conscience rights of insurers, providers and people like me who object to being forced by the federal government to offer or subsidize contraceptives and sterilization services, especially when some of these drugs can take the life of early unborn children. Pro-abortion advocates say that it is not right to have the federal government dictate morals. But you are doing just that when you force employers, insurance providers and health care personnel to provide services that they believe go against their religious and moral beliefs.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Foster
New Braunfels, TX 78130