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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

Secretary Sebelius:

I am writing to urge you to not cave in to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' demands regarding expanding exemptions to providers to refuse dispensing birth control. The bishops continually push their agenda on the American public. The public does not need the Catholic Church to be able to exert so much power over them. There MUST be separation of church and state, especially in such important and personal matters such as family planning.

I am a single female who makes 13.25/hr. I use a hormonal birth control pill for medical reasons. A one month supply of pills costs me 45.00, and this is with insurance! I fear for women who are far worse off than I financially, especially in this day when the Republicans are trying to close Planned Parenthoods and take away resources for women in so many areas.

If I refused to perform certain tasks in my job, I would be fired. I would not be able to hind behind a clause and opt out. Some of the tasks I perform in my job I find somewhat morally unpleasant, yet I knew this going into my job, as do pharmacists, etc. They have no right to judge and decide other people's morality.

PLEASE do not allow the bishops to continue to block access to women's healthcare needs!

Respectfully,
Kristen Strobel