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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

The move to mandate that all healthcare plans provide contraception and sterilization procedures, and even direct abortion and chemical abortions as "preventative services" is an abomination. First of all, pregnancy and fertility are not a disease, and the things listed above treat them as if they were. This mandate is a horror across the board, but most especially that it would be forced even onto religious organizations who oppose contraception, sterilization, and abortion. The "exception" for religious organizations is so narrowly defined that very few religious organizations would even qualify for that exemption.

Catholic institutions are opposed to contraception, sterilization, abortion and abortifacients. A Catholic hospital, which is set up because of the Christian duty to serve others, to help the sick and dying, and that serves anyone, regardless of their religious profession, or employs non-Catholics would not qualify. Would this mandate make it legal for Catholic hospitals to post "Catholics only need apply" for open positions? Would this mandate make it legal for Catholic hospitals to fire non-Catholic employees? Would this mandate then make it legal to have someone at the hospital's emergency bay verifying the religious profession of a patient before the patient is allowed off the ambulance and into the emergency room? Maybe we can all wear patches on our clothes so that we would know who is allowed into which hospital, which job, which school, which charity. Will this mandate legalize and even require this type of discrimination? And even if it were legal, it would still be a violation of Christian principles to do that.

How can you even think to force any organization that opposes those things to now pay for it or participate in it in some way? This mandate is an attack on religious freedom; it is unbelievable. I will end with this: pregnancy and fertility is not a disease. Do not adopt this mandate, please.