Dear U. S. Department of Health and Human Services,

Comment on File Code CMS-9992-IFC2.

The exception to this rule is too narrow and needs to be rewritten. Pregnancy is not a disease, and drugs and surgeries to prevent it are not basic health care that the government should require all Americans to purchase. Please remove sterilization and prescription contraceptives from the list of "preventive services" the federal government is mandating in private health plans. It is especially important to exclude any drug that may cause an early abortion, and to fully respect religious freedom as other federal laws do. The narrow religious exemption in HHS's new rule protects almost no one. I urge you to allow all organizations and individuals to offer, sponsor and obtain health coverage that does not violate their moral and religious convictions.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Bachi

Paul R. Bachi Plant Diagnostician/Research Specialist University of Kentucky Research and Education Center 1205 Hopkinsville Street, P.O. Box 469 Princeton, KY 42445-0469

ph 270/365-7541 x228 fax 270/365-2667 e-mail <u>pbachi@uky.edu</u>

http://www.ca.uky.edu/agcollege/plantpathology/extension/pdd\_lab.html