

From: [Sister Mary Elizabeth Merriam](#)
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: RIN 1210-AB44 Mandatory Birth Control
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2011 4:41:12 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I object in the strongest of terms to mandating birth control with no co-pays under the Affordable Care Act.

The mandate violates my conscience and that of millions of Americans who oppose birth control on moral and religious grounds.

It is undisputed that one of the operations of contraceptives is to render the endometrium hostile to implantation, so that if fertilization occurs, the newly conceived child may be lost to an early abortion. I also strongly object to the inclusion of free sterilization as well as abortifacient pills like ella, which can work weeks after a person's biological beginning to cause an abortion.

And what of Catholic employers and others who oppose birth control, but are now going to be forced to participate in these plans and/or offer it to their employees? This flies in the face of the conscience protections that Americans have historically enjoyed.

The conscience provisions attached to the rule are so narrowly crafted that they would appear to force Catholic institutions to make free birth control and sterilization available in health plans, or cease hiring and providing services to non-Catholics.

It is incomprehensible that such a mandate is being forced upon the people of the United States.

It is no secret that Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion chain in America, is behind this mandate, and will reap huge financial benefits from it at a time when citizens in the United States are working on both the state and federal levels to defund the abortion giant.

The majority of Americans are pro-life and we do not want our tax dollars and insurance premiums supporting the nation's largest abortion chain.

It is imperative that you give credence to my personal objection along with those of millions of other Americans who do not want to be forced to pay for and provide medication, devices, and procedures that do not treat or prevent any disease or illness, but distort and render inoperable a healthy reproductive system. This rule is unjust, untenable, and un-American--and it should be stricken.

Sincerely,

Sister Mary Elizabeth Merriam
Austin, Texas