

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

<b>As of:</b> August 29, 2011
<b>Received:</b> August 23, 2011
<b>Status:</b> Pending_Post
<b>Tracking No.</b> 80eeac94
<b>Comments Due:</b> September 30, 2011
<b>Submission Type:</b> Web

**Docket:** EBSA-2010-0018

Interim Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

**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

**Document:** EBSA-2010-0018-DRAFT-0044

Comment on FR Doc # 2011-19684

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## Submitter Information

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## General Comment

I vigorously oppose the illegally narrow exemption created in the Interim Final Rule. This proposed religious exemption would apply almost exclusively to ONLY houses of worship, and possibly some denominational seminaries. As a result of the HRSA guidelines, employers who have pro-life, religious, or other conscientious objections to facilitating the use of birth control drugs or abortion inducing drugs are now required to provide the very drugs that result in the death of a human being. According to the dictates of their conscience this would be murder and sinful.

The proposed Religious exemption violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. I urge the HHS to withdraw the Interim Final Rule that created this illegally narrow religious exemption and adopt a religious exemption that would allow all employers who have religious and conscientious objections to providing birth-control or abortion producing drugs to their employees to opt out of the new HRSA guidelines.