

From: lost2woods@neo.rr.com
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: Comment: RIN 1210-AB44
Date: Wednesday, September 07, 2011 3:15:44 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I recently became aware of the subject HHS action allegedly implementing a provision of "Obamacare" consistent with the recommendation of the IOM (Institute of Medicine) -- to require all private health insurance plans to cover contraceptives and sterilization services (including those that abort a fertilized egg within a woman free of charge to the patient. As a result, organizations that provide insurance to their employees will be forced to cover such services, even if they object. The effect is that the cost of these "free" services will be shifted to plan participants through higher premiums both to employees in employer sponsored plans, and to individuals in the individual insurance market, i.e. myself.

I am writing today to ask you to rescind the unjust and coercive mandate that all "contraceptives" and sterilization procedures be covered by private health insurance with no co-pay to patients. If you do not reverse course I ask you to expand conscience protections for any organizations that provide individual and group insurance and have moral or religious objections. I strongly oppose the government forcing "free" insurance coverage on Americans especially for drugs and devices that I oppose because some of these can cause an abortion (such as ella and Plan B).

I also ask you to revisit your definition of "religious employer" and offer an effective protection for any organization and business that has moral or religious objection to providing such insurance to their employees. This legal mandate clearly violates the spirit of conscience laws which prohibit government discrimination against those who object to various health services on moral or religious grounds, and the many statements of our President and members of Congress to the effect that no federal funds will be used to implement abortion. (While technically, no federal funds would be used, imposition of a rule that requires private parties to pay for something they would not otherwise voluntarily pay is tantamount to imposition of an additional federal tax and federal expenditure!) The definition of "religious employer" in the regulation is so narrow as to only include churches, but will still mean that a host of businesses and organizations that have conscience objections will be required to choose between either violating their conscience or not being able to offer employees health insurance.

Please protect the conscience rights of insurers, providers and people like me who object to being forced by the federal government to offer or subsidize contraceptives and sterilization services, especially when some of these drugs can take the life of early unborn children. No Americans should be forced by the federal government to essentially subsidize services they object to. I again urge you in the strongest way possible to reverse course and remove contraceptives and sterilizations from the list of mandatory preventive services.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
David Ronyak
Akron, OH 44303