

**From:** [csmithdesign@comcast.net](mailto:csmithdesign@comcast.net)  
**To:** [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)  
**Subject:** Comment: RIN 1210-AB44  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 07, 2011 3:31:51 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to ask in the strongest way possible that you rescind the unjust and coercive mandate that all "contraceptives" and sterilization procedures be covered by private health insurance with no co-pay to patients. At minimum, I ask you to expand conscience protections for any organizations that provide individual and group insurance and to individual purchasers who have moral and/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). Being sexually active, and being pregnant are not illnesses. Individuals are responsible for their behaviors and their expenses, the way this is written is an encouragement to further irresponsible behavior and beliefs.

I also ask you to reconsider your definition of religious employer and offer an authentic conscience 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. 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, which of course they are being required to do. So in effect you force law abiding, tender hearted individuals to violate the law.

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 and the young women who take them. I again urge you to reverse course and remove contraceptives and sterilizations from the list of mandatory "preventive" services.

Sincerely,  
claire smith  
Sharon, CT 06069