

From: judyharvey2@juno.com
To: E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA
Subject: Comment: RIN 1210-AB44
Date: Thursday, September 08, 2011 2:34:24 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to ask you to rescind the 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 be sure they include moral or religious objections. I strongly oppose the government forcing free insurance coverage on Americans which includes things they object to. When we lose our right to choose what's best for us, our families, or our employees, then we lose the very essence of freedom.

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 objections about 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.

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 American 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.

Sincerely,
Judy Harvey
Allentown, PA 18104