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To: E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA
Subject: Comment: RIN 1210-AB44
Date: Thursday, September 15, 2011 8:28:43 PM

Regarding the restrictive definition of "religious employer" exempt from the coercive contraception/sterilization insurance coverage mandate:

A "religious employer" that qualifies for an exemption should not only include churches and religious organizations but also any employer who can demonstrate conscience objections based partly or completely on their faith -- for example, if they can provide some written record of being a member in good standing of a religious group that opposes contraception and/or sterilization or can provide proof such as a letter to the editor or to an elected official indicating that the employer opposed contraception for reasons that are at least partly based on religious belief. Furthermore the exemption to the mandated health insurance should apply not just to employers but also to individuals who do not want to do business with, accept coverage from, or entrust their health care to companies who provide coverage for these services they find morally offensive. Fertility is not a disease -- if people want doctors to destroy or cause temporary disfunction in their reproductive systems, they shouldn't ask other people to pay for it -- this is not "medicine." In addition, so-called "contraceptives" that include abortifacient action or embryo death via prevented implantation should not be part of any mandate since these actions are logically a form of abortion, no matter how deceptively words like "conception" have been redefined in recent decades to mislead the public on the mechanism of popular and profitable forms of birth control.

Sincerely,
Kelly Smith
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