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To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: Comment: RIN 1210-AB44
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On behalf of Care Net, an organization that represents nearly 1200 affiliated private, not-for-profit pregnancy resource centers, I am writing today regarding the contraceptive mandate that the Department of Health and Human Services has recently imposed on private insurance companies under the authority of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

As currently written, this mandate, recommended by a body that had no input from the life-affirming community, constitutes a coercive mandate on private employers and health insurance providers. By requiring free coverage for all contraceptives, including those that act to end a newly conceived human life by interfering with the implantation process (such as Ella and Plan B), the HHS is imposing on the conscience of employers that provide insurance for their employees and have religious or moral objections to providing this type of coverage.

We ask that the HHS rescind the mandate that all contraceptives and sterilization procedures be covered by private health insurance with no co-pay requirement for patients. If you do not rescind the mandate, however, we further ask that you meaningfully expand conscience protections for organizations that provide health insurance to their employees. The present definition of "religious employer" is so narrow as to make a sham of the conscience protections which should be respected under current U.S. law. If the conscience clause exception remains so narrow as to only cover churches / houses of worship, many other businesses and not-for-profit organizations, such as Care Net, will be forced to choose between violating their conscience or not being able to offer their employees health insurance.

Please rescind this coercive regulation, which essentially requires insurance providers and employers to subsidize contraceptive and sterilization services they may object to. Please strengthen the conscience protections for employers and health insurance providers.

Respectfully submitted,
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Sincerely,
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