

From: jillheins@hotmail.com
To: E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA
Subject: Comment: RIN 1210-AB44
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2011 5:51:57 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to request that you 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 have moral or religious objections. I naturally 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 would also ask you to reconsider your definition of religious employer and offer an authentic conscience protection for any organization and business that has a 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 (i.e. seminaries and Catholic schools) 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 hope you'll remove contraceptives and sterilizations from the list of mandatory preventive services.

Sincerely,
Jill Heins
Overland Park, KS 66214