

From: [Joseph Barnell](#)
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: CMS-9992-IFC2
Date: Friday, September 30, 2011 12:07:24 AM

Re: File Code: CMS-9992-IFC2

To whom it may concern:

Our nation is on a disturbing trend. Soon like other nations we will have a low birth rate problem. Perhaps it is here today. If that is not enough; as a citizen and taxpayer I am extremely offended by the audacity of the current administration and her trampling of law and the fundamental foundations of our nation. If that were not enough, the HHS policy treats the creation of life and preservation of our Nation as if it were a disease to be eliminated.

The American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) defines Preventive Medicine as "that specialty of medical practice which focuses on the health of individuals and defined populations in order to protect, promote, and maintain health and well-being and prevent disease, disability, and premature death. (Source: <https://www.theabpm.org/aboutus.cfm>" Date Accessed 9.29.2011). Pregnancy is not a disease. In fact, pregnancy enables the growth of our society. Drugs and surgeries to prevent pregnancy are not basic health care that the government should require all Americans to purchase. Please remove sterilization and prescription contraceptives from the list of "preventive services" the federal government is mandating in private health plans. In looking at the definition of Preventive Medicine from the ABPM, the corresponding services should among other activities, prevent premature death. It is especially important to exclude any drug that may cause an early abortion, and to fully respect religious freedom as other federal laws do. The narrow religious exemption in HHS's new rule protects almost no one. The narrow religious exemption in HHS's new rule protects almost no one. It covers only a "religious employer" that has the "inculcation of religious values" as its purpose and primarily employs and serves persons who share its religious tenets. Most Catholic, Latter Day Saints (LDS), Jewish and other charitable organizations that serve the public, including hospitals, health care clinics, social service programs, and schools, colleges and universities, will be ineligible. Individuals and religiously affiliated health insurers will not qualify for the exemption.

We are a nation founded on many principles, including the separation of church and state. This was in no small part to prevent the institution of any "religion of the masses". Yet, as you may know, the nation's largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood, actively campaigned for the mandate now issued by HHS, and supports

mandated coverage of chemical as well as surgical abortion. Planned Parenthood and other pro-abortion groups hope for a national mandate for "prevention" of pregnancy. Yet, is this not the institution of a religion? Is not a religion a set of beliefs, values, and practices based on the teachings; or a cause, principle, or activity pursued with zeal or conscientious devotion? In allowing this mandate, you are simply mandating religion upon a population of concern. This is not only unethical but violates the legal frameworks and foundations of our nation.

I urge you to allow all organizations and individuals to offer, sponsor and obtain health coverage that does not violate their moral and religious convictions and enables the growth our or nation.

Sincerely,

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