

**From:** [Kathryn Ertl](#)  
**To:** [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)  
**Subject:** Reply to request for comments on HHS new mandates, August 1, 2011 [under Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ]  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 03, 2011 9:46:54 PM

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*In reply to your requests for comments on HHS new mandates:*

*We would like to express our extreme dismay at the apparent utter disregard for the protection of conscience which is exhibited in the final regulations which implement the rules for group health plans and health insurance coverage under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Health Care Reform).*

*It is critical that the voices of all persons of conscience be heard, noting in particular that pregnancy is not a disease to be prevented and that contraception should not be a mandated "preventive health service." Respect for conscience is foundational to a just society. At a minimum, a robust conscience protection should be granted, not only for all religious employers, but also for all employers, insurers, and policy issuers with moral, ethical, or religious objections. As it is, the limitations contained in the regulations for religious employers, make the exemption virtually meaningless.*

*HHS has indicated a call for comment, but the regulations became effective August 1, 2011.*

*Please quickly terminate this mandate; and replace it with a just "conscience protection" mandate for all Americans.*

*Sincerely,*

*Mr. and Mrs. Ertl  
St. Paul, MN*