

From: [Robert Gorman](#)
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: religious employer
Date: Sunday, August 07, 2011 10:34:41 PM

I am writing to object to the narrowly defined "religious employer" language in the August 1st US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandates concerning preventive health services to be covered by insurance plans. These mandates - in response to the Institute of Medicine's advisory report issued to HHS - require that all insurance plans provide coverage for all prescription contraceptives approved by the FDA, as well as abortifacients such as the "morning after" pill and "Ella" (a drug similar to RU-486 which can induce an abortion some weeks into pregnancy).

Respect for conscience is continually tested and challenged, yet it is essential that such conscience protection be granted for not only religious employers, but for all employers, insurers, and policy issuers with moral, ethical, or religious objections as well.

I urge reconsideration of the narrow definition of religious employer. Our diocese has excellent health insurance coverage and we provide it as a matter of social justice. But we cannot go beyond the mandates and beliefs of the Catholic church. Attempting to force us to do so will result in less, not more, health insurance coverage for our employees.

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