

**From:** [Cheryl Spooner](#)  
**To:** [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Definition of religious employer  
**Date:** Friday, August 12, 2011 7:19:39 PM

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Dear Sir/Madame:

I know that you have a busy agenda, so I do not try to inundate you with messages. However, the current issue on the table concerning religious employers is a grave issue to me.

I start not with my own opinion, but with the words of Abraham Lincoln, "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Liberty was never perceived by Lincoln as something that was to be used to run over others. He himself was a very religious man and would never, under any circumstances, have thought it o.k. to grant to some the "right" to destroy the future men and women of our country. He was grieved over the idea of a war that divided our country and that sought to enslave and/or kill innocent men and women just because of the color of their skin.

How is it that we have ever come to the point that we have again divided our country over the idea that it is all right to kill just because children (DNA: human) cannot be seen by the naked eye, cannot speak up for themselves, and cannot vote. Yet those very children are the very citizens that will be tomorrow's voters, teachers, doctors, and workers in all the variegated ways that America provides hope to people from all nations.

To strike further at our roots, I quote the last words of that speech, "...that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom; and that this government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." This government was never set up to force death upon any people, let alone upon the innocent unborn. It is a government of the people, not of the elite. It is a government that was set up to welcome those seeking a place where their religious beliefs can be practiced without a government that insists in squashing them.

I urge you, please, to consider that every citizen has the right to follow his religious beliefs. Churches, other organizations, and individuals that believe that birth control and abortion are intrinsically wrong have the right to believe that and to refuse health services of that kind from insurance organizations. They have the right to hire only those that are in agreement with their respect for life positions.

Thank you so much for listening,

Cheryl Spooner