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Interim Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Comment On: EBSA-2010-0018-0002

Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services under Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Amendment

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General Comment

I read over the regulations for a religious exemption for providing contraceptive care. As written now, it would only exempt churches and other institutions whose express purpose is religious in nature. However, clergy are not the only employers with strong religious convictions on this issue. If I were an employer I would not be able offer contraceptive services without violating my religious beliefs. This regulation would impinge not only on the religious freedom of religious institutions, but also on every employer who believes that providing such contraceptives is immoral. This not just a matter of cost. Employers might be fine with the monetary value of the services provided, but it would violate their freedom of religion.