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Subject: public comment for "preventive services for Women"
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To Whom It May Concern:

HHS very limited and narrow exemptions for the new health reform ignores the underlying principle of Catholic charitable organizations: we help people because WE are Catholic not because our clients are. With the new HHS regulation, HHS will force church institutions to buy contraceptives, abortifacients like the recently FDA approved drug Ella, and perform surgical sterilizations. This regulation goes against long standing, bipartisan understanding about respect for conscience and religious freedom.

Furthermore there is no scientific data that proves contraception covered under the guise of "preventative services" will do anything other than drive up rates of uncommitted sex, non-marital pregnancies, non-marital births STD's and abortions (convenient for major lobbyist, Planned Parenthood- who has much to gain...).

Unfortunately, if the new HHS regulations are not reversed, the outcome will be that Catholic institutions that have a long history of caring for the most underprivileged in this country would risk losing federal funds and would eventually have to close down.

President Obama went so far as to issue an executive order that the health care reform would not fund abortion or force people or institutions to violate their consciences. This radical and narrow regulation put forward by HHS undermines the Constitution's guarantee of religious freedom - one of the basic tenets of our country's foundation.

Susan Leong