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To: E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA
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Bad Conscience is Bad Medicine

I'm a retired physician and am now receiving medical services rather than providing them. Requiring doctors to do morally unconscionable things could easily harm me. Likewise, organizations forced to cover "services" they find immoral are demeaned and treated worse than non-citizens in having their right to liberty repealed. They would be tainted.

Why do you want to force organizations and insurance companies to provide services many employees or customers don't want? If employees or customers don't want some services, they should not be forced to pay for them.

Many doctors find that some controversial medical services are inconsistent with their personal scientific or moral beliefs. These services might include acupuncture, chiropractic, physician-assisted suicide, alternative medicine, abstinence-only contraception, homeopathy, and abortion. If forced to provide these services, or to refer to someone who can, these doctors would provide bad services or bad referrals.

These doctors know little, if anything, about the quality of practitioners providing these services. They don't know which of these practitioners are competent and which are quacks. For example, would Planned Parenthood staff know which abstinence-only practitioners were good? I would guess that some of these Planned Parenthood practitioners consider abstinence-only advice immoral.

Obviously, physicians who abhor killing innocent fetuses or babies will not know which abortifacients or abortionists are "good" and which are "bad." They would not be able to make a "good" referral for someone seeking such reprehensible treatment.

As a result, the patient would suffer as a result of forcing their health professionals to do unconscionable things, if existing conscience laws were repealed. Doctors would be prohibited from describing their personal moral position with patients. This would restrict my personal options; I wouldn't be able to easily avoid doctors and hospitals providing physician-assisted suicide, for example.

If a doctor would be forced to make a referral for what he considers quack treatment, the patient would be the loser.

Therefore, you should rescind the coercive mandate that all "contraceptives" and sterilization procedures be covered by private health insurance with no co-pay to patients.

Also, encourage good medical practice by expanding conscience protections for any organizations that provide individual and group insurance and have moral or religious objections.

Sincerely,
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