

From: mwenger@ciu.edu
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: Comment: RIN 1210-AB44
Date: Thursday, September 08, 2011 11:08:36 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to request the rescinding of the unreasonable and unjust mandate that all "contraceptives" and sterilization procedures be covered by private health insurance with no co-pay to patients. At the very least, expand conscience protections for any organizations that provide individual and group insurance and have moral or religious objections would be appropriate under constitutional protections of religious liberty. I am opposed to programs which may encourage abuse of, or failure to properly care for women taking medications which may cause an abortion (such as ella and Plan B).

I also ask you to reconsider your definition of religious employer and offer an authentic conscience protection for any organization and business that has moral or religious objection to providing such insurance to their employees. This legal mandate clearly violates the spirit of conscience laws which prohibit government discrimination against those who object to various health services on moral or religious grounds. The definition of "religious employer" in the regulation is so narrow as to only include churches, but will still mean that a host of businesses and organizations that have conscience objections will be required to choose between either violating their conscience or not being able to offer employees health insurance.

Please protect the conscience rights of insurers, providers and people like me who object to being forced by the federal government to offer or subsidize contraceptives and sterilization services, especially when some of these drugs can take the life of early unborn children. No Americans should be forced by the federal government to essentially subsidize services they object to. I again urge you in the strongest way possible to reverse course and remove contraceptives and sterilizations from the list of mandatory preventive services.

Sincerely,
Mark Wenger
Lexington, SC 29073