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To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: Objection to HHS
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To Whom It May Concern:

The recently approved final regulations put forth by HHS have very limited and narrow exemptions for religious organizations. They ignore the underlying principle of Catholic charitable organizations: we help people because WE are Catholic not because our clients are. With the new HHS regulations, private insurance programs must provide "preventive services" for women that include contraceptives, abortifacients like the recently FDA approved drug Ella, and perform surgical sterilizations. The only exemption for religious groups is for those employers who employ *and* serve persons who share the same religious beliefs. This regulation goes against a long standing, bipartisan understanding about respect for conscience and religious freedom.

Per Helen Alvare, a law professor at George Mason University, "there is no data showing that at the level of a social policy, contraception has ever done anything but drive up rates of uncommitted sex, non-marital pregnancies, non-marital births STD's and abortion."

Major lobbyist Planned Parenthood has much to gain if the new regulations go into effect. 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.

Please recall that 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.

Beverly Rajnes