

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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**Docket:** EBSA-2010-0018

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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## Submitter Information

**Name:** Benjmain Edward Zalisko

**Address:**

5241 S. Drexel Ave

Apt 3

Chicago, Illinois, United Kingdom, 60615

**Email:** bzalisko@yahoo.com

**Organization:** Secular Student Alliance

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## General Comment

I oppose any exemption that allows an exclusion of preventative health services for some women based on their employers' religious affiliation. It is not religious freedom that is protected when such an exemption is made, but individual freedom that is restricted. Such a policy violates the spirit of the establishment clause by allowing the government to support an employer imposing their religious belief on their employees.

During a time when jobs are scarce and organizations and companies may discriminate based on religious beliefs, and when individuals are not able to use marketplace pressures to force employers to accede to the majority's wishes of contraceptive coverage, it is the responsibility of government to protect the interests of those who are unable to protect themselves.

Sincerely,

Ben Zalisko

University of Chicago Secular Alliance