

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

<b>As of:</b> October 04, 2011
<b>Received:</b> September 27, 2011
<b>Status:</b> Pending_Post
<b>Tracking No.</b> 80f3f752
<b>Comments Due:</b> September 30, 2011
<b>Submission Type:</b> Web

**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

**Document:** EBSA-2010-0018-DRAFT-0368

Comment on FR Doc # 2011-19684

---

## Submitter Information

**Name:** Robert Timothy Rue

**Address:**

6366 County Road 27

Auburn, IN, 46706

**Email:** tim@truecompany.com

**Phone:** 260-437-8665

---

## General Comment

The proposed religious conscience exclusion for certain otherwise-mandated health coverage services attempts to follow our country's founding principle of freedom of religion, but in fact misses the mark. Our constitutional protection is not directed at preserving our religious institutions, but is intended to protect the individual's right to personal religious belief from the tyranny of established institutions. Our forefathers had experienced the tyranny of established churches and of state-promoted religious criteria. To that end, this religious conscience exclusion must be extended to the personal employer, also. One might object that it could be abused to be discriminatory. But, this is not a law that would allow/prohibit participation by the employees—it is instead setting a possibly offensive list of required services. The section is phrased in terms of services commonly associated with women, but of course similar services might be made available for men. This exclusion would not allow discrimination, but would just allow the choice of not funding activities that, to some, might be beyond offensive and attack the essence of their faith and existence.