

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: October 04, 2011
Received: September 28, 2011
Status: Pending_Post
Tracking No. 80f40e17
Comments Due: September 30, 2011
Submission Type: 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-0490

Comment on FR Doc # 2011-19684

Submitter Information

Name: Tracy E Walker

Address:

390 Northgrove Drive

Merritt Island, FL, 32953

Email: tracywalker@gmail.com

Phone: 321-480-5939

General Comment

Regarding the section: "Guidelines include contraceptive services for all women and that this requirement be binding on all group health plans and health insurance issuers with no religious exemption. However, several commenters asserted that requiring group health plans sponsored by religious employers to cover contraceptive services that their faith deems contrary to its religious tenets would impinge upon their religious freedom. One commenter noted that some religious employers do not currently cover such benefits under their group health plan due to their religious beliefs."

It is not the purvue of an employer to force employees to follow their personal religious beliefs, or to deny them any form of health care coverage due to those beliefs. This is discriminatory. If an employer believes his or her religion prohibits any medical treatment or prevention, including birth control, abortion, or vaccinations, no one is forcing them to undergo or use them. They are free to exercise their religious rights with no interference. However, their employees must be able to make their own decisions about their healthcare. To rule otherwise is to infringe upon the employee's rights and freedoms. Allowing their employer to make healthcare decisions for them based upon the employer's religious beliefs is grossly inappropriate.