

Following Directive of Bishop Dewane's HHS Letter

The HHS has issued a rule forcing nearly all private health plans to include coverage for all FDA-approved prescription contraceptive drugs and devices, as well as surgical sterilization. These are listed among "preventive services for women" that all health plans will have to cover without co-pays or other cost-sharing -- regardless of whether the insurer, the employer or other plan sponsor, or even the woman herself objects to such coverage.

The exemption provided for "religious employers" is so narrow that it fails to cover the vast majority of faith-based organizations, including Catholic hospitals, universities and service organizations that help millions every year. Ironically, not even Jesus and his disciples would have qualified.

During the public comment period last fall, the bishops' grassroots campaign alone generated over 57,000 comments to HHS opposing their mandate.

Now that the Administration has refused to recognize the Constitutional conscience rights of organizations and individuals who oppose the mandate, the bishops are now urging Catholics and others of good will to fight this unprecedented attack on conscience rights and religious liberty.

Please write to those who have been elected to represent you on a national level.

Congressman Connie Mack
115 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Marco Rubio
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please co-sponsor the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179) and help enact it into law. The Obama administration's decision to require even religious institutions to provide coverage of sterilization and contraceptives, including drugs that can cause an abortion, makes passage of this measure especially urgent. Please ensure that the rights of conscience of all participants in our nation's health care system are respected.

Signed: _____