

**OUR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
OUR RIGHT TO BE FAITHFUL CATHOLICS IS UNDER ATTACK!**

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, signed into law in March 2010. This act includes numerous provisions to take effect over several years beginning in 2010. One policy, introduced in August 2011, requires health insurance plans to cover contraception, including drugs that cause abortion, and sterilization free of charge. This mandate provides no conscience exceptions for religious and other organizations objecting to abortion.

On Jan. 20, 2012 Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that the administration would not expand a religious exemption for employers who object to its “preventative services” mandate. Beginning August 1, 2012, most new and renewed health plans will be required to cover these services without cost sharing for women across the country. From the HHS letter, Sebelius states “We intend to require employers that do not offer coverage of contraceptive services to provide notice to employees, which will also state that contraceptive services are available at sites such as community health centers, public clinics, and hospitals with income-based support. We will continue to work closely with religious groups during this transitional period to discuss their concerns.” The policy gives religious employers until August 2013 to comply with this outrageous requirement.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION!

Please take the time to send Kathleen Sebelius and President Barack Obama letters asking that they rescind this mandate and restore religious liberty and rights of conscience. Polls show the most effective way of reaching government officials with our concerns is with letters from individual citizens.

For your convenience we have provided letters for you to sign and mail. They are available in the Narthex or you can download them from the church website: www.stjosepheppingham.com. If you prefer to write your own letter, please be polite. We represent Christ and His Church.

Thank you for taking action!

Addresses:

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

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