

_____, 2013

The Honorable ___[Congressman's Name]___
United States House of Representatives
___[Office Address]___ House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman _____:

___[Your ministry]___ strongly supports the Health Care Conscience Rights Act. In light of the troubling "preventive" services mandate stemming from implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, this critical piece of legislation would protect the religious liberty and conscience rights of our members.

Despite the slight adjustments set forth in the Advanced Noticed of Proposed Rulemaking by the Administration, we have serious concerns about the effect of the mandate on the religious liberty of our schools and other faith-based organizations. Through the mandate, which remains published in the Federal Register unchanged, the government is dictating to religious organizations how they must operate in matters of conscience, regardless of the teaching of that faith. This Health and Human Services contraceptive mandate could set a dangerous precedent that would infringe on the autonomy and religious liberty of our churches and schools. Since the majority of our ministries provide health insurance plans to their employees, the preventive services mandate would directly affect their ability to provide this service in good conscience. Hypothetical accommodations and implementation delays do not allay our concerns about the fundamental issue of religious liberty, nor does the extremely narrow religious exemption included in the preventive services mandate.

The Health Care Conscience Rights Act, which has broad bipartisan support, would amend the health care law "to provide conscience protections for individuals and organizations." If passed, this bill would allow our ministries to continue to provide valuable health care coverage to their employees without violating their deeply held religious and moral beliefs.

We urge you to uphold the religious liberty that is granted us through the U.S. Constitution by supporting a bill like the Health Care Conscience Rights Act. We pray that God will guide you as you work to uphold the Constitution and defend the freedoms and values which make our country a beacon of hope for people around the world. Thank you for your service in the Congress and for considering our opinion.

Sincerely,