

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 29, 2011

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201


Dear Secretary Sebelius:

We are writing to express our opposition to guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services on August 3, which constitute an unprecedented effort by the federal government to dictate the terms of private health insurance coverage.

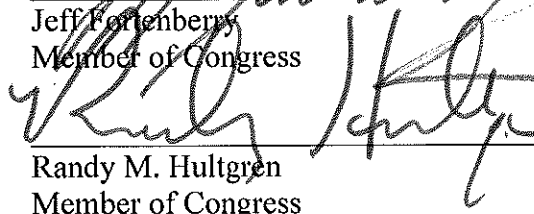
Specifically, the imposition of mandated coverage for sterilization and contraceptives, of particular note abortifacient contraceptives and devices, stands to significantly expand health care costs and subjects many persons of good will to government-forced ethical dilemmas. Freedom of conscience is a fundamental American principle, and insurers, plan sponsors, and individuals should remain free from government coercion when deciding whether or not to offer or purchase particular types of health insurance coverage.

Additionally, this mandate will force many employers - particularly religious institutions - to choose between their convictions and livelihood, to either violate their deeply held beliefs, drop health care coverage, or cease providing health care services to the general public, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations. We therefore respectfully request that the Department take these concerns into account and revise the August 3 interim final rule accordingly to protect the conscience rights of Americans.

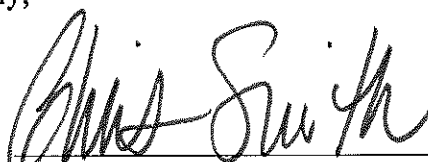
Sincerely,



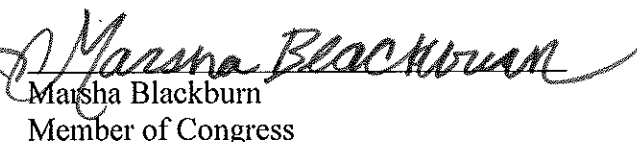
Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress




Randy M. Hultgren
Member of Congress

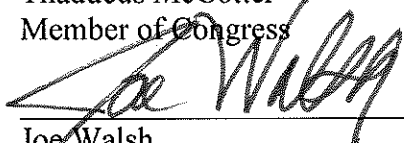



Christopher Smith
Member of Congress

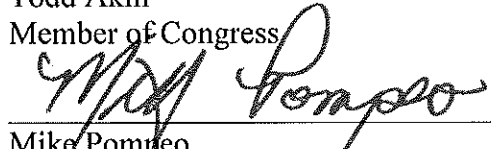


Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



Thaddeus McCotter
Member of Congress



Joe Walsh
Member of Congress

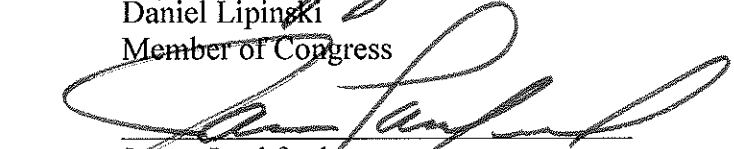

Todd Akin
Member of Congress



Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress

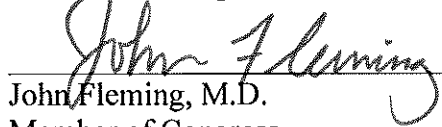

Trent Franks
Member of Congress


Jim Sensenbrenner
Member of Congress


Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress

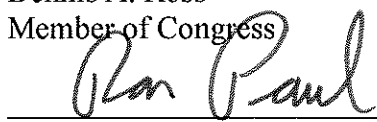

James Lankford
Member of Congress


Dan Burton
Member of Congress

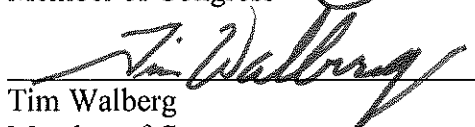

John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress

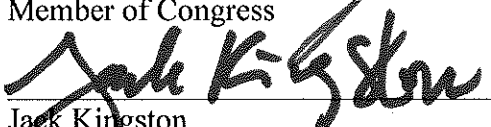

Steven M. Palazzo
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Dennis A. Ross
Member of Congress



Ron Paul, M.D.
Member of Congress



Bill P. Huizenga
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

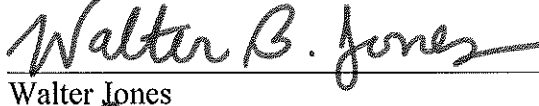

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

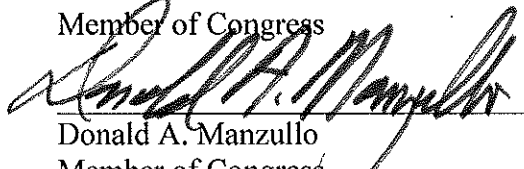

Sam Graves
Member of Congress

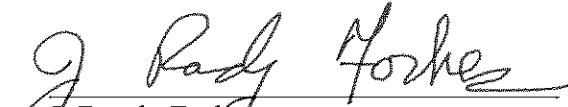

Francisco R. Canseco
Member of Congress


Peter J. Roskam
Member of Congress



Bobby T. Schilling
Member of Congress


Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

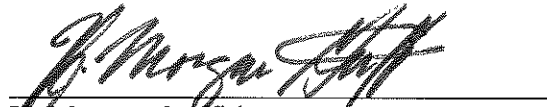

Donald A. Manzullo
Member of Congress




J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress



Jeff Miller
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



Steve King
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