

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.

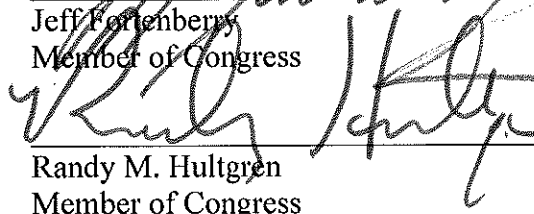
Specifically, the imposition of mandated coverage for sterilization and contraceptives, of particular note abortifacient contraceptives and devices, stands to significantly expand health care costs and subjects many persons of good will to government-forced ethical dilemmas. Freedom of conscience is 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.

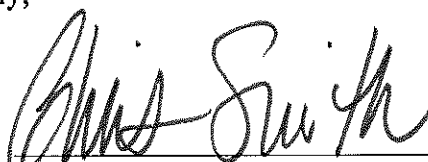
Sincerely,



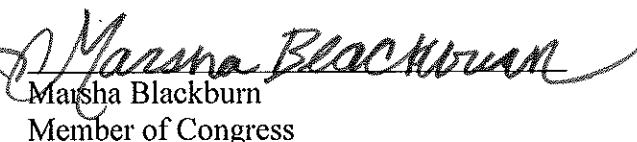
Jeff Fortenberry  
Member of Congress



Randy M. Hultgren  
Member of Congress



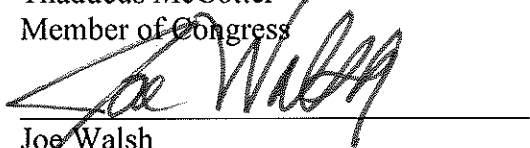
Christopher Smith  
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn  
Member of Congress



Thaddeus McCotter  
Member of Congress



Joe Walsh  
Member of Congress



Todd Akin  
Member of Congress



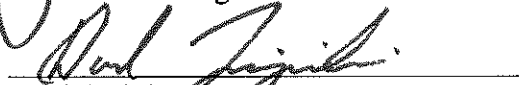
Mike Pompeo  
Member of Congress



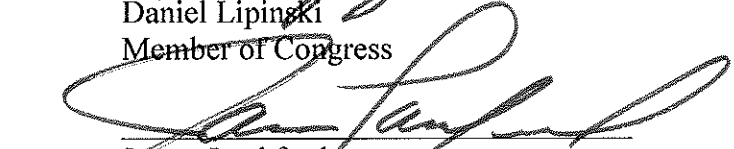
Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



Jim Sensenbrenner  
Member of Congress



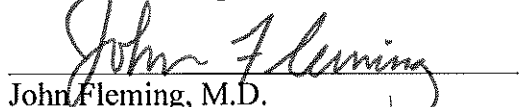
Daniel Lipinski  
Member of Congress



James Lankford  
Member of Congress




Dan Burton  
Member of Congress



John Fleming, M.D.  
Member of Congress



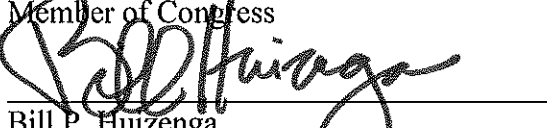
Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress



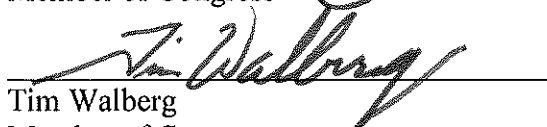
Dennis A. Ross  
Member of Congress



Ron Paul, M.D.  
Member of Congress




Bill P. Huizenga  
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



Jack Kingston  
Member of Congress



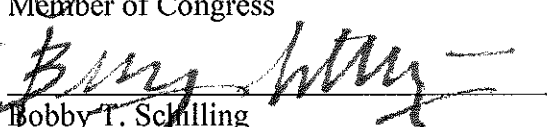
Sam Graves  
Member of Congress



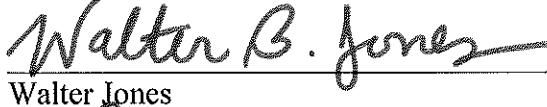
Francisco R. Canseco  
Member of Congress



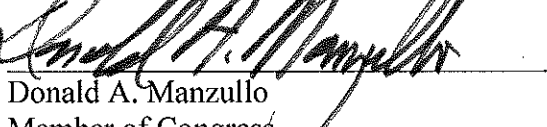
Peter J. Roskam  
Member of Congress



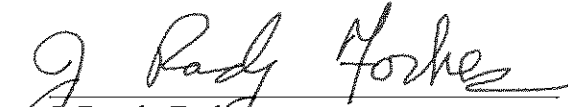
Bobby T. Schilling  
Member of Congress




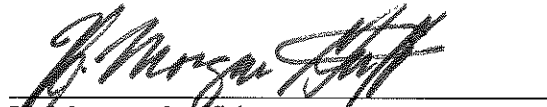
Walter Jones  
Member of Congress




Donald A. Manzullo  
Member of Congress

  
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J. Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress

  
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Jeff Miller  
Member of Congress

  
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H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress

  
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Steve King  
Member of Congress