

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops – Bishops Vow to Fight Coercive HHS Mandate – over 425 Catholic leaders are calling on Congress and the Administration to protect conscience rights in health care.

Action Alert:

Write to Congress to Support Respect for Rights of Conscience Act

On January 20, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reaffirmed a rule that virtually all private health care plans must cover sterilization, abortifacients, and contraception. The rule is set to take effect August 1, 2012. Non-profit religious employers that do not now provide such coverage, and are not exempt under the rule's extremely narrow definition of religious employer, will be given one year – until August 1, 2013 – to comply.

To correct the threats to religious liberty and rights of conscience posed by PPACA, the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act has been introduced in Congress (H.R. 1179, S. 1467). This measure will ensure that those who participate in the health care system “retain the right to provide, purchase, or enroll in health coverage that is consistent with their religious beliefs and moral convictions.” It is more important than ever that Members of Congress be urged to cosponsor this measure.

Action: Contact your U.S. Representative and Senators

Jean Schmidt (R-OH)

2464 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
(513) 791-0381 Cincinnati Office
(800) 784-6366 Washington Office
Web form: www.house.gov/schmidt/contact.shtml

Sherrod Brown (D-OH)

713 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2315
Web form: www.brown.senate.gov/contact/

Rob Portman (R-OH)

338 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3353
Web form:
www.portman.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact?p=contact-form