

Petition to stop imposing on the religious freedom of Catholics

I am writing to you as a voter in your District/State. I - along with every voter who is signing this petition - have had my address verified via a service which receives an email from their credit card processors confirming that my account exists in your District/State. Therefore, you and your colleagues can be completely certain that the signatures you receive on this petition belong to real people who are - in fact - your constituents.

As an American citizen and someone who respects the basic rights and freedoms enshrined in our Constitution's Bill of Rights, I am appalled that the Federal Government would so callously disregard First Amendment protections for the Freedom of Religion. The Government simply has no Constitutional authority to order any religious institution to engage in practices which are contrary to its fundamental beliefs. The recent regulations by the Department of Health and Human Services ordering all insurers - including those being run by religious organizations or providing health services to employees of such organizations - to provide contraceptives and sterilization free of charge is both a violation of Constitutional Freedoms and a gross abuse of power.

This is not a petition about contraception. The First Amendment guarantees religious freedom; forcing a religious organization to provide contraceptives, and/or abortive agents, which violates a basic tenant of Catholicism is an egregious violation of the right to religious freedom guaranteed in the First Amendment. Suggesting that insurance companies are to provide them for "free" is facetious and irrelevant.

I respectfully petition my Congressional Representative and US Senators to sponsor legislation and undertake whatever official act is necessary to pass a law which rectifies this astonishing disregard for the Constitution and the First Amendment rights of our religious institutions. Please ensure that this regulation is overridden by a Federal law in such a manner as to make it impossible for these Governmental abuses to be repeated in the future.