

Call to Action from Bishop Farrell

Dear Friends in Christ,

I cannot stress enough the importance of speaking out against the recent decision by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that will force employers, including Catholic employers, to offer their employees health coverage that includes sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs and contraceptives. In so ruling, the Administration has cast aside the First Amendment of the U. S. Constitution which states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Unless this rule is overturned, we must be prepared either to violate our consciences, or to drop health coverage for our employees and suffer the costly penalties for doing so.

As you can see, the HHS ruling denies Catholics of our religious liberty.

I hope I can count on you, the faithful of the Diocese of Dallas, in demanding that the rights of the Church and her people are protected. Please use the following directions from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and make your voice heard on this very important issue.

Thank you for your help in this most urgent issue.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop Kevin J. Farrell

ACTION: Contact your U.S. Representative today by e-mail, phone, or FAX letter:

- Visit www.usccb.org/conscience for more details and an easy link to send an email to your U.S. Representative
- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices with the message below.
- Additional contact info can be found on Members' web sites at: www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.

MESSAGE: "Please co-sponsor the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179, S. 1467) and help enact it into law. The Obama administration's decision to require even religious institutions to provide coverage of sterilization and contraceptives, including drugs that can cause an abortion, makes passage of this measure especially urgent. Please ensure that the rights of conscience of all participants in our nation's health care system are respected."