

Immediate Release

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Bishop McFadden Critical of HHS Mandate

“We cannot allow this administration to get away with such a blatant attack on this fundamental freedom.”

Bishop Joseph P. McFadden of the Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg today has echoed the opinion of the Catholic bishops of the United States calling “literally unconscionable” a decision by the Obama Administration to continue to demand that sterilization, abortifacients and contraception be included in virtually all health plans. Today’s announcement means that this mandate and its very narrow exemption will not change at all; instead there will only be a delay in enforcement against some employers.

According to Bishop McFadden, “Never before has the federal government forced individuals and organizations to go out into the marketplace and buy a product that violates their conscience. This shouldn’t happen in a land where free exercise of religion ranks first in the Bill of Rights.”

The Bishop is urging all citizens to let their elected leaders know that they want their religious liberty and rights of conscience restored and that they want the Administration’s contraceptive mandate rescinded. “As Americans we hold the freedom of one’s conscience as an inviolable right we cannot allow this administration to get away with such a blatant attack on this fundamental freedom.” added Bishop McFadden. Those interested can send a message to Congress via a link on the Diocesan homepage at www.HbgDiocese.org

The HHS rule requires that sterilization and contraception – including controversial abortifacients – be included among “preventive services” coverage in almost every healthcare plan available to Americans. At issue, the U.S. bishops and other religious leaders insist, is the survival of a cornerstone constitutionally protected freedom that ensures respect for the conscience of Catholics and all other Americans.

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