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**HATCH: ANYTHING SHORT OF A FULL EXEMPTION OF HHS
MANDATE FOR RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS DOES NOT PROTECT
RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), a current member and former Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, today made the following statement after the Obama Administration announced a so-called compromise to the previously-announced preventative services mandate announced by the Department of Health and Human Services:

“This is about religious freedom, and anything short of a full exemption is no compromise. The White House has shown time and time again that nothing will stand in the way of politics, and their actions on this mandate reflect that. The backlash surrounding the White House’s decision to force religious institutions to act against their beliefs lays that fundamental fact that the President’s health law is unconstitutional to its very core.”

NOTE: Hatch has long fought to preserve religious freedom under the U.S. Constitution. He was the principal Republican co-sponsor of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, bipartisan legislation that prohibited the federal government from burdening the free exercise religion. The bill brought together a broad spectrum of grassroots and congressional coalitions and was signed into law in 1993.

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