

PRESS RELEASE

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Obama's "New Directive" Still Requires Charities to Fund Contraceptives and Abortifacients

Washington, DC – Just after noon today, President Obama [took the White House podium to state](#) that all women, even if they are employed by a Catholic organization or charity, will be provided free access to contraceptives, which is in direct violation of the beliefs of the Catholic Church. He stated, "If a woman's employer is a charity or a hospital that has a religious objection to providing contraceptive services as part of their health plan, the insurance company, not the hospital, not the charity, will be required to reach out and offer the woman contraceptive care free of charge, without co-pays and without hassles. The result will be that religious organizations won't have to pay for these services and no religious institution will have to provide these services **directly**." (Emphasis added)

Obama's speech reveals his fundamental misunderstanding of the First Amendment. Forcing an insurance company to pay for contraceptives and abortifacients is only an accounting gimmick, which he acknowledges would still require religious organizations to fund contraceptives and abortifacients indirectly. Someone has to pay for this funding, and that burden will fall upon all employers, including religious organizations.

Moreover, religious institutions that are self-insured, such as Liberty University, the world's largest Christian school, are still required to pay directly for the contraceptives and abortifacients for their faculty and staff. Thus, Obama's "new directive" solves nothing. It underscores the problem that Obama has the power to issue a directive, without any legislative oversight, that directly conflicts with freedom of religion and the right of conscience.

Mathew Staver, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel, said, "Laundering a Catholic or Christian organization's money through the insurance company to pay for abortifacients does not suddenly correct the moral sin inflicted by Obama. ObamaCare is a direct attack on the moral and religious beliefs of our nation. This administration has pressed its radical pro-abortion agenda on the American people and around the world. ObamaCare is an assault on our freedom."

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