

MICK MULVANEY
5TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

1004 LONGWORTH HOB
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5501
FAX (202) 225-0464

1456 EBENEZER RD
ROCK HILL, SC
(803) 327-1114
FAX (803) 327-4330



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 15, 2012

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

CHAIRMAN OF
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONTRACTING AND WORKFORCE

Dear Friends,

I want to start by thanking everyone who has contacted me regarding the recent decision by the Obama Administration to require religious employers to provide contraception, sterilization services, and “morning-after” pills in their health coverage.

While I rarely get emotional about issues that face us in Washington, I can tell you that I have been truly moved by the number of people who have reached out to me, by their passion, and by their fear of what this decision means not only for the Catholic Church, but for religious institutions of every denomination. The groundswell of opposition to this decision reaffirms my faith in the decency and common-sense of the people I represent.

It is especially noteworthy that, while Catholic charities and health care providers have garnered the lion’s share of the media attention on this issue, I have heard from evangelical Christians, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Jews, and Mormons on this issue. And rightly so, as it is our basic religious freedoms that have been challenged by this rule, not just the tenets of one particular faith.

Please know that I will be doing everything I can in Washington to overturn this rule. And know, too, that I am not alone. In one day alone we were able to garner the support of over 100 members of Congress – from both parties – on a letter to the Director of the Department of Health and Human services, voicing our opposition to this travesty. As Thomas Jefferson suggested more than 200 years ago: “No provision in our Constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprises of the civil authority.” As offended as Jefferson would be by the efforts of the Obama Administration, I believe he would be doubly proud of the immediate and firm response of the peoples’ representatives in the Congress.

One final point: it is important to note that this decision is part and parcel of the Affordable Health Care Act of 2010. There were many who warned, at the time that law was passed, that this rule was an inevitable future step in its implementation. And while the President has offered a “compromise” that may exempt religious organizations, that protection is NOT provided for in the law. Put another way, the compromise can be taken away as easily and as quickly as it was offered. There are many of us who believe with every ounce of our being that the only way to permanently protect against this sort of attempt to violate our religious freedoms is to repeal the Affordable Health Care Act. But at the very least, the Act should be amended to reaffirm our religious rights in the law, taking away the ability for any one President or bureaucrat to attempt to deny them to us.

If you have questions about the rule, about the President’s proposed compromise, or about any part of this debate, please contact me. In the meantime, please know that I will continue to do all that I can to defend our shared religious freedoms, regardless of denomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mick Mulvaney", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mick Mulvaney
Member of Congress