

Overview: LCMS Reaction to the Birth Control Mandate

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 28, 2012, to largely let stand the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), a historic piece of legislation meant to extend health coverage to millions of uninsured Americans. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod opposes the birth control mandate, which is part of the law, because it runs counter to the biblical truth of the sanctity of human life and creates a conflict of conscience for religious employers and insurers, who face steep penalties for non-compliance based upon their religious convictions.

The birth control mandate enacted Jan. 20, 2012, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services requires virtually all health plans to cover most forms of birth control, even those that can cause the death of an unborn child. The rule, or mandate, exempts churches but applies to other religious employers. On Feb. 10, President Obama announced an “accommodation” for religious employers, saying they would not have to cover birth control, but that insurance companies would provide free birth control, including “morning after” pills. The LCMS objects to the use of drugs and procedures that are used to take the lives of unborn children, who are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception.

Timeline of Actions

The LCMS has taken the following action on this issue:

Feb. 3, 2012: [Missouri Synod President issues statement on recent HHS decision and religious freedom](#)

Feb. 14, 2012: [Missouri Synod President says church remains ‘deeply concerned’ about health plan mandate despite White House statement](#)

Feb. 16, 2012: [Missouri Synod President tells House Committee: LCMS ‘religiously opposed to supporting abortion-causing drugs’](#)

Feb. 27, 2012: [LCMS Council of Presidents ‘stands with’ Synod President on religious-liberty statements](#)

June 21, 2012: Free Exercise of Religious: Putting Beliefs into Practice [An Open Letter from Religious Leaders in the United States to All Americans](#)

June 28, 2012: [LCMS President issues statement in response to U.S. Supreme Court ruling on health care reform legislation](#)

For More Information

For additional resources, please visit www.lcms.org/hhsmandate or call 888-THE LCMS (843-5267).