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Jeff Colyer, M.D., Lieutenant Governor

Sam Brownback, Governor

February 14, 2012

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

The Obama Administration recently made the decision to mandate that religiously-affiliated employers offer health insurance that will pay for sterilization, contraceptive, and abortifacient drugs at no cost to their employees. Despite a so-called "compromise" that Congressman Paul Ryan accurately described as an "accounting gimmick," the President's plan will require employers to subsidize practices their religion holds to be morally objectionable. President Obama's policies are a slap in the face to a country whose first citizens arrived here in search of religious liberty.

America has long been a safe haven for those of differing beliefs. Our founders recognized the importance of religious freedom and enshrined this right in the First Amendment. Despite this, the Obama Administration has forged ahead with health care policies that mandate violations of conscience and require the faithfully religious to disregard the teachings of their church.

As you consider House Bill 2260, the federal government's recent attempts to trample the religious liberties of millions of Americans must be at the forefront of your debate. Religious liberty is at the heart of who we are as a people. Kansans are looking to us to continue to preserve and protect all of our cherished liberties.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Colyer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jeff Colyer, M.D.  
Lieutenant Governor