

From: Peters, Hal
To: Soura, Christian <ChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov>
CC: Baker, Josh <JoshBaker@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 1/23/2013 12:50:49 PM
Subject: RE: Draft on Contraception

The letter is in your chair and can also be located at S:\Policy Shop\Letters and Talking Points\Boss.
AHP

From: Soura, Christian
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 12:12 PM
To: Peters, Hal
Cc: Baker, Josh
Subject: Draft on Contraception

She's already approved this letter – I just showed it to her a couple of minutes ago. The only addition is the last sentence in paragraph 3 (which we talked about conceptually, but which she hasn't seen yet). Please also add the usual close there at the bottom. When the draft's ready, let me know, and I'll put some notes on it and give it to Halti. Thanks.

CLS

Dear CONSTITUENT,

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding individuals' healthcare decisions and the roles played by their employers in this process.

I respect the rights of individuals to make their own decisions about their healthcare, but at the same time, I also value and respect the rights of those employers who, for religious reasons, are opposed to purchasing various forms of contraception for their employees. Dozens of cases are currently working their way through the nation's appellate courts in an attempt to reconcile this tension between the religious freedoms of employers and the new mandates imposed under the Affordable Care Act.

In the meantime, it is important to distinguish between our ability to make decisions about our own health and our ability to make someone else pay for the effects of those decisions. When businesses, churches, and universities that provide health insurance for their employees resist providing coverage for contraception as a matter of faith, they are not making health decisions for those employees – they are merely asking not to pay for those decisions when they directly conflict with the employer's religious principles. Employers deserve to be able to defend their beliefs in this way.

Please feel free to contact me (etc.)...

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