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The purpose of this newsletter is to help educate, update, and inspire those interested in pro-life issues.

Do You Have Questions Or Comments On Anything In This Newsletter?  
Would You Like To Recommend A Topic On The Respect And The Defense Of Human Life?  
Do You Feel Moved To Share A Personal Story About The Respect And The Defense Of Human Life?  
Do You Feel Moved To Submit A Personal Story About Healing And Hope?

Submit feedback to [defendlife@stpaulkensington.org](mailto:defendlife@stpaulkensington.org)

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**Inside this e-Newsletter:**

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- \* S2578 Is A Direct Response To The Supreme Court Ruling On Hobby Lobby
- \* Catholic Bishops Calling On All Catholics - Oppose S2578's Attack on Religious Freedom

**SUPREME COURT RULING ON BURWELL V. HOBBY LOBBY – VICTORY FOR LIFE!**

The HHS mandate requires an employer's group health plan to provide contraception, sterilization, and abortion-inducing drugs to employees without any cost sharing between the employer and employee. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), a component of HHS, decided what contraception and abortion inducing drugs must be covered. The guidelines HRSA came up with included recommendations from the Institute of Medicine (IOM). The IOM is a deeply ideologically-driven entity and is well-connected with Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider. Not surprisingly, the mandate includes mandatory coverage for 20 contraceptive methods approved by the Food and Drug Administration, including four that are abortion-inducing drugs.

Across the country, individuals, religious schools, and corporations have argued that the HHS mandate of the Affordable Healthcare Act violates their religious freedom by forcing them to pay for insurance that provides coverage for these drugs and devices.

Two business owners sued the HHS over the mandate and the case made its way all the way up to the Supreme Court. On June 30, the U.S. Supreme Court provided the much-anticipated ruling. The highest court in the land **ruled in favor of the business owners on the grounds that it violates their religious liberty**. This is a very significant victory for LIFE. And, the families who own the businesses can keep their doors open. The Green family with their company Hobby Lobby Stores would have been fined at \$100 per employee per day (\$1,300,000/day) if it offered a health plan that doesn't cover all 20 contraceptive drugs and devices and the Hahn family with their company Conestoga Wood Specialties would have been fined at \$100 per employee per day (\$95,000/day). Very few companies can survive this kind of financial punishment and would most certainly go out of business. Many other employers with religious objections to providing coverage for contraceptive services have cases pending or have been given a temporary reprieve from paying the fine.

**S2578 IS A DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE SUPREME COURT RULING ON HOBBY LOBBY!**

<http://www.usccb.org/news/2014/pr-14-123.cfm>

In response to the Supreme Court ruling on Hobby Lobby in favor of religious liberty, S2578 was brought to life. S2578 is a bill that is aimed at reversing the Supreme Court's ruling and forcing businesses to provide contraception, sterilization, and abortion-inducing drugs in their health plans even if they object to it on religious grounds. S2578 is called An Act to Protect Women's Health from Corporate Interference. This effort, if passed, would attack almost all existing federal protections of conscience rights and religious freedom regarding health coverage

mandates. This is very important to understand; S2578 would exempt the Affordable Healthcare Act from The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993! The Catholic Bishops have spoken out on this effort and asks that all Catholics do what they can to oppose it. Follow the link above and read the letter Cardinal Seán O'Malley of Boston and Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore sent to the Senate so that you understand this position.

### **CATHOLIC BISHOPS CALLING ON ALL CATHOLICS TO OPPOSE S2578**

The Catholic Bishops are asking all Catholics to Oppose S2578 –

*“In its recent Hobby Lobby decision, the U.S. Supreme Court determined that the HHS contraceptive mandate ... violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). In reaction, Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced the Protect Women's Health from Corporate Interference Act (S. 2578). Ranging very broadly, the bill negates any right that employers, insurers or employees may have, under RFRA or any other federal law, to opt out of federally mandated coverage. On July 16, a motion to consider S. 2578 narrowly failed in the Senate. Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) preserved the right to reconsider the vote. As a result, the bill can be brought up again at any time. Please send follow-up messages to your Senators today!”*

While the initial action on this bill caused the measure to be stopped, it will come up again for consideration.

TAKE ACTION now!

Send e-mail through NCHLA's Action Center - <https://www.votervoicenet.com/NCHLA/campaigns/36673/respond>