

Exhibit 186

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0088

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Chauna Brocht

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General Comment

I am deeply concerned about this new rule. I am a lesbian and am a parent of two children. I am concerned that someone could deny them basic medical care because they have two mothers. This rule will embolden medical providers to deny basic health care to lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual people and their families. Any religious freedom needs to be balanced by the freedom to obtain quality health care. This rule needs to be more specific so that it can't be mis-interpreted to include denying health care based on sexual orientation or gender identity. These protections need to be written explicitly into the rule.

Exhibit 187

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-6578

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Terry Mays

General Comment

I am a Transwoman living in the state of Indiana. It has been very plain over the years in speeches and in actions from Mike Pence of his hatred towards not only the LGBT community but a particular hatred toward the trans community. He has always had very close ties both as governor of Indiana and now in his current office to the Family Research Council and he is the main force driving this fundamentalist program nationally that he did in Indiana which resulted in the disastrous religious freedom restoration act. How will this effect me. Well I constant live in fear anyway living in a small town in rural Indiana. The fear of getting beaten, discriminated against in employment, housing, etc or flat out murdered. But one of the fears I did not have was in dealing with my health care providers because there were protections in place for me against being discriminated against. With this there will no longer be a safe place anywhere for me. For me The guarantee of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness was stripped from me the moment I transitioned and it is the same for anyone like me in this country. One of the most basic tenants that citizens enjoy in this country is not a guarantee for myself. I can be killed in my State and someone can use the Trans panic defense and go completely free. I can be discriminated against in employment, education, housing or just simply walking into a store, because of their "fundamental christian values" thus robbing me of the Pursuit of Happiness and in some cases my Liberty. I live in constant fear of being beaten by the public at large and there is no guarantee that there will be anyone in the police department that will aide me or if they do I may be the one arrested instead robbing me of my Liberty. This is the reality of living as a transwoman in rural America this will only make things worse for us. Those of us who already know we are second class citizens not afforded the basic tenants guaranteed other citizens.

Exhibit 188

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-6843

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Mary Sanders

General Comment

I was diagnosed with severe endometriosis at 20 years of age. This terrible disease causes infertility, and I desperately wanted children. Because of the health insurance provided to me without any discriminative clauses, one of my options was to take birth control pills, stopping my menstrual cycle completely. I chose this option along with other surgical procedures and happily conceived my son. If I had been working for a company or agency that just arbitrarily banned coverage for birth control, I would not have been able to afford this treatment. Please consider how discrimination hurts people for the reason we are all equal.....no one knows the pain each one of us confronts when on religious basis or otherwise, choice is withheld. Now, I am a senior citizen, and that beautiful son I have is a wonderful person who is gay. I will continue to fight for his rights too as he has to face discrimination every day of his life.. The right to believe is absolutely fundamental. The right to discriminate is not. Please reconsider this regulation -- and make clear that discrimination has no place in this country, especially in healthcare.

Exhibit 189

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-7229

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Catherine Landfried

General Comment

** My daughter is transgender and if her physicians were discriminatory, shed still be stuck in a body that killed her slowly every day. **

Please disregard this regulation -- and make clear that discrimination has no place in this country, especially in healthcare. There are so many wonderful health care providers; dont let a handful of better thans in the name of religion, destroy other human beings. Please.

Exhibit 190

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-7506

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Mary De Ridder

General Comment

For women and LGBTQ people this proposal needs to be shut down. My daughter has a right to healthcare just like any daughter should.

The right to believe is absolutely fundamental. The right to discriminate is not. Please reconsider this regulation -- and make clear that discrimination has no place in this country, especially in healthcare.

Exhibit 191

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-8460

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Linda Aguinaga

General Comment

I should not have to worry about my daughter being treated less than because she was born gay. I should not have to think that one day my child will have to walk out of an establishment with her head hung low because she was refused service or that she will lose her job because she's gay. Her right to become a productive member of society should not hinge on who she loves she should have the right to be present in our society as fully as everyone else. I do believe in everyone's right to their own belief system but that right should not come with a free pass to render a whole group of citizens to a second class existence.

Exhibit 192

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-8817

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Lorraine Flaherty

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General Comment

As the mother of a transgender man and as a health care provider I strongly object to these changes. It is often difficult and frightening for our LGBT brothers and sisters and for women to access certain types of legal, medically necessary care. Our country has an obligation to protect and serve our most vulnerable.

Exhibit 193

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-9173

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Christopher Clough

General Comment

I am transgender and I have been blessed with access to health professionals who have supported me. It's been easier for me in a major metropolitan area. But many of my brothers are in small, rural communities with very few health care providers. They are dependent on doctors putting people first, not subjective beliefs. This bill undercuts the basic humanity and violates human rights.

Exhibit 194

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-9431

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Jay Melzer

General Comment

I deserve as much right to healthcare as any cisgender citizen of this nation, as do all of my transgender and LGB brothers and sisters. One cannot choose to "disbelieve" or "disagree" with a person's identity - your opinion does not change who they are. Our right to exist is not a matter of conscience. The right to believe is absolutely fundamental. The right to discriminate is not. Please reconsider this regulation -- and make clear that discrimination has no place in this country, especially in healthcare.

Exhibit 195

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-9977

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Caitlin Gaffin

General Comment

As a queer woman, I have had experiences where I have been uncomfortable sharing my sexual history with my healthcare provider, which is not ideal considering patients should be encouraged to be as truthful as possible with their doctors and healthcare providers. Also, as a woman, I worry of being denied birth control options due to religious or moral exemptions should healthcare discrimination be allowed to exist. No one should be afraid of not receiving the care that they need and desire - we must do better.

Exhibit 196

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-10134

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: angela sakell

General Comment

I am the mom of a 15 year old transgender son. I am horrified at the thought that my child may have been denied service in the emergency room because he is transgender. He's been to the emergency room twice - once when he dislocated his finger and another when he had pneumonia. What do treating either of those conditions have to do with what genitalia he has? He's not a person? He somehow deserves to be in pain due to a dislocated limb or deserves to potentially pass away from an untreated infection because he is transgender? There was a time when Jewish people and black people were also deemed "morally offensive" and healthcare professionals could deny them service. This country has already stood up to these affronts and I hope and pray will do so again. As this famous poem so aptly puts, I must speak out. "First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out-- Because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out-- Because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out-- Because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me--and there was no one left to speak for me."

Exhibit 197

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-10142

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Joy Sabl

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General Comment

Whenever I bring my friend "Beth" to a new doctor, we have a lot to explain. She's genetically XXY (intersex), also transgender (raised as a boy, lives as a woman), has some Aspie-like traits, depression, anxiety, eagerness to comply, and weak language processing ability (all part of the described XXY phenotype). Add some memory loss from concussions, lingering injuries from accidents 50+ years ago over the course of a working class life. The list is long.

Knowing that she's not going to be refused or shamed for being either intersex or transgender has been essential for dealing with her kidney failure, leg amputation, knee replacement, colonoscopy, major depressive incidents, etc. Basically, if she had been refused for any of these absolutely essential operations or services, she would likely be dead.

She didn't ask for her genotype, nor her identity. Goodness knows, as desperate as she is for approval, if she could have conformed to social expectations, she would have. She's put a thousand times more energy into "trying to do life right" than most people. The results have been...uneven and dispiriting, at best. Yet she's still mostly upbeat, with a smile and helping hand for everyone she meets.

There is no reasonable world where any medical provider should be able to withhold services from her.

Exhibit 198

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-10158

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: MAREE WHISENAND

General Comment

My son has suffered discrimination since he "came out" five years ago. He is only 27 years old and now has had suicide ideation . Hard to be in a world where anyone tells anyone how to love. This is a SERIOUS issue that must be approached from all angles so that all can love and live the way their heart and soul leads them.

Discrimination must be stopped at all and any levels. INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE. Please join and hear our pleas!

Exhibit 199

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-10167

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Maxine Sandoval

General Comment

I find this highly unfair that I and my wife might have to fear being rejected healthcare based on the simple fact that her and I love each other. Our son should not have to fear not seeing his mothers sick because we are refused this basic right or even himself because he has and loves his two moms. Do the Humane thing and decision and say no to this law. Everyone no matter who they love should be afforded the same rights. If I pay taxes and make money and pay for healthcare just the same as any "straight" person I should be able to be treated just the same.

Exhibit 200

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-10190

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Matthew Alschuler

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General Comment

I live in a sparsely populated rural area. Health care providers are few and far between. I am very worried about the proposed legislation that would allow health care providers to deny legal, doctor prescribed, medical care due to their personal religious beliefs.

A medical provider, be they a primary care physician, a pharmacist, a nurse, etc. cannot impose their beliefs on the medical needs of a poorly served area. This will discriminate against the poor, women, minorities, and LGBTQ communities, the very people that are most in need of health care, and are also less able to travel great distances (the nearest hospital is 30 miles away - and if that facility won't treat them, they'd have to drive 50 miles) just to obtain basic medical care, such as filling prescriptions for birth control, etc.

Religious freedom means that the government can't impose a religion on the citizens, it doesn't permit a licensed health care provider to impose their religious beliefs on patients. This rule is draconian, and must be eliminated.

Exhibit 201

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-10240

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Beth Anonymous

General Comment

I have faced discrimination in health services three different times in the past 10 years. I live in a rural community with one hospital owned by Seventh Day Adventists. I have been denied care based on religious prejudices. There has to be a compromise somewhere. A guarantee that health care practitioners can refuse to help (which no health care worker should be able to based on sex, religion, orientation, ethnicity, etc.), but that there are appropriate referral sources available and that those discrimination are made clear beforehand so as to not waste time or resources.

Basically, if a doctor doesn't want to treat a transgender person, they let people know upfront and have a list of referral sources available. That way the doctor can discriminate based on moral objections but patients (1) know beforehand and (2) are provided a list of service providers in their area who would gladly help them.

Exhibit 202

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-11257

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Leslie McMurray

General Comment

My name is Leslie McMurray - I am a transgender woman who works as a liaison between patients and insurance companies and I've seen my share of horror stories. I routinely speak to medical school students on issues surrounding transgender healthcare because this subject isn't currently addressed in the curriculum. The end result is that there are 1.4 million Americans that doctors aren't sure how to effectively treat - and lives are in the balance. Please don't add the ability to discriminate to our already difficult time accessing healthcare. People are dying. We need compassion and equal treatment. Please think about what you are doing. Isn't the cardinal rule of the Hippocratic Oath - "First, Do No Harm?"

Exhibit 203

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-11261

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Melissa Sadzewicz

General Comment

I am a transgender female who is not going to let them take anything away from me or from anyone else I am standing up for my right to be seen by any doctor I want to see and that wants to see me I am not going anywhere because I believe in my right and the rights of others

Exhibit 204

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Comment On:HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document:HHS-OCR-2018-0002-11924

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information**Name:**James Townsend**General Comment**

Hi, I have experienced discrimination from healthcare providers in the past due to my family structure, and one notably at an Urgent Care facility when I took our daughter with my now husband but then partner (due to marriage not being allowed not by choice) with whom I had been with for many years to the Urgent Care for assistance with an acute medical condition my daughter had been suffering.

It was Saturday so our regular medical provider was closed, so we went to a local Urgent Care for her to be seen for an ear infection. I had custody of my daughter, and she lived with us full time. When we were at the office we noticed the staff looking at us strangely and staring at us. It was painfully clear that they were talking about us. Well, long story short when it was time for her to go the back to be seen by the doctor the staff refused to let him go back because he was not considered her "family", and as I stated before there was NO marriage equality back then so legally he was not family, but to her and to me he is her DAD too! When the doctor came in the room I asked him who was actually very nice if my partner could come back and be a part of the treatment and decision process for our daughter's health, and he said, of course, he can which was a relief. The nurse that told him he could not come back scoffed and be visibly angry with being overridden by the doctor on staff. The point of the matter is that should have never happened, and we should have never been embarrassed like that in front of a room full of other patients, and families. It should not matter who I want to bring to the back with my/our minor daughter as long as it is reasonable as far as how many people I was requesting to be a part of the treatment process (it was just the three of us) as it was none of the nurse's business.

This happened probably more than 10 years ago, but I will never forget it or the look on the nurse's face when talking to me. I was appalled at her behavior. When you are at work you have to put your personal feelings aside when dealing with the public especially in a healthcare setting. I will use an example to put it into perspective, but if you were totally against people doing drugs, and alcohol substances would you refuse to treat someone who was dying of an overdose because of your beliefs? No, you're probably would not because if you did you would most likely use your license to practice medicine as well as possible prosecution for allowing someone to die when you could render aid to them. I just feel like if you cannot put your personal feelings and belief system aside in a medical setting then maybe this is not the occupation for you, and you should choose to work somewhere else that does not work with the general public. You are never going to find a place where you are going to agree with everything that goes on or who comes through the door, but you act like a human being and accept people for who they are even if you feel that there choices and beliefs do not match with yours because if you take a close look there are probably very little people in the world that are going to believe everything you do the same way and vice versa.

I hope I have not rambled too long, but I wanted to share my story with you to show that these things can and do affect people deeply when they are discriminated against or treated differently due to who they love, or who they are especially the LGBTQ community who have always been at the forefront of discrimination maybe second to racism.

Exhibit 205

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-12769

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Rachelle Tepel

General Comment

Im Rachelle Tepel and am a transgender woman. Im writing in regards to the proposed Conscience regulation (published Jan. 26) that would prioritize individual physicians and other health care workers beliefs over access to critical care.

Im an economist working on healthcare issues, specifically on how to lower healthcare costs. Denial or delay can lead to long-term health problems or even death, especially for transgender individuals. This regulations protections seek to sanction these denials. These long-term problems could lead to substantial increases in healthcare costs.

As proposed, this regulation contains no safeguards for ensuring that patients have access to legally available treatments like fertility treatment, HIV prevention and treatment, and medically necessary transition-related care. Please change this regulation.

Exhibit 206

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-12853

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Phil Gautreau

General Comment

I came out as a gay man at age 19 in 1979. It was an act of bravery but one that I knew I had to take to live a responsible and productive life. I am a healthcare administrator and I have worked many years on behalf of advocacy for many people, including people with HIV and AIDS. For 12 years, I've worked for Northwell Health, the largest healthcare employer in NYS. Its notable that one of its hospitals, Lenox Hill Hospital in Manhattan, recently opened a Center for Transgender Health. I believe in my personal and professional life that everyone has the right to believe and be who they are as human beings, regardless of sexual orientation or health status, is absolutely fundamental. The right to discriminate is not. Please reconsider this regulation -- and make clear that discrimination has no place in this country, especially in healthcare.

Exhibit 207

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document:HHS-OCR-2018-0002-16081

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name:Jennifer McAndrews

General Comment

For years we did all we could to help my child battle depression - psychologists, social workers, stays in mental hospitals when plans of suicide overwhelmed. Once he accepted who his soul told him who he was meant to be and began loving his life as a trans man, he has been healthy, happy, thriving. For years we fought to keep him alive. No health care provider should have the right to abandon his care.

MY firmly held religious belief is that God put my child on this path so that he might know compassion for others. Why should someone else's beliefs be held above mine?

The right to believe is absolutely fundamental. The right to discriminate is not. Please reconsider this regulation -- and make clear that discrimination has no place in this country, especially in healthcare.

Exhibit 208

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Status: Posted
Posted: March 28, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-91ui-k247
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket:HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On:HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document:HHS-OCR-2018-0002-16294

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name:Margaret McFarlin

General Comment

My daughter's partner needed a critical operation and the expert was in Florida. They had a signed and notarized statement that Jennifer was able to make health-care decisions for Helen and was her Power of Attorney. The hospital staff refused to let her see Helen and would not provide any information about Helen's condition while she was hospitalized. Why would they do that? Because they could. Their job is to care and heal patients. Not to be a roadblock to a loving couple.

Exhibit 209

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 12, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-91z5-36uh
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-22404

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Randall Harper

General Comment

I as a part of glbtq am opposed to the refusal of healthcare because of race, religieon,sex preference, trans gendered. We all deserve the same respect of equal healthcare . We are all human beings and have the right to be heard and taken care of .

Exhibit 210

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 11, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-91yf-1fkq
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: API

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-22732

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Nancy Ablao

Address: 49024

Email: nablao@yahoo.com

Organization: Mrs.

General Comment

To Whom it May Concern:

We are raising an active non-binary young adult and they deserve to be treated for medical care. They are human just like the rest of us. It would be sickening to turn away anyone for medical treatment under any circumstance. Each and every person has the right to treatment. We firmly oppose RIN 0945-ZA03 or Docket HHS-OCR-2018-0002 because it is discriminatory to a population of people who have equal rights.

"This is the use of religion to hurt people because you disapprove of who they are," said Harper Jean Tobin of the National Center for Transgender Equality. "Any rule that grants a license to discriminate would be a disgrace and a mockery of the principle of religious freedom we all cherish."

We urge you to vote NO on this proposed rule as it goes against the basic fundamental rights of citizens. Please review the proposal and develop viable alternatives (including not regulating at all) that are inclusive and humane.

Sincerely,

Nancy and John Ablao

Concerned Parents

Portage, Michigan

Exhibit 211

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 08, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-91wo-x3jv
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: API

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-24558

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: mariellen gilpin

Address: 61820-3306

Email: m-gilpin@illinois.edu

General Comment

I am a voter from Illinois. I have already been subjected to doctors who do not fully inform patients about their choices in other aspects of health care. I do not want those last days of my life afflicted with doctors who want to do extreme measures to keep me alive (and in pain and suffering) to the last possible moment. I want to be free to decide for myself if I want to avoid food and water to hasten my death. I want to decide for myself if I want to try one more surgery instead of choosing palliative care. I want to know the policy of the hospitals in my area, so I can choose the hospital that will respect my own decision. I am a faithfilled Christian. I don't need someone else's view of what God wants to decide how and when my life will end.

Exhibit 212

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 14, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-920k-bgtk
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: API

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-25669

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Judith Bailey

Address: 03813

Email: jbailey@gilanet.com

General Comment

RIN 09456-ZAO3

As a grandmother of two beloved transgender kids, I am very troubled by the idea of "moral exemptions" in the provision of healthcare. And as a woman, I am very troubled that I am still having to defend a woman's right to control her own body after all these years. As an American citizen, I oppose efforts on the part of government to discriminate AT ALL when it comes to providing basic services.

Exhibit 213

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 16, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-921s-9es0
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: API

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-27525

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Nicola van Kuilenburg

Address: 21701

Email: nvkuil.geo@gmail.com

General Comment

As a parent of a transgender child I am very concerned about this proposal, My son has been subjected to horrific treatment by health care providers due to his gender identity and this rule will only increase the likelihood it happens again. Transgender children are very vulnerable and should be guaranteed access to medical care at all times, but particularly when in crisis.

Exhibit 214

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 15, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-921b-z4vc
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: API

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-28256

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Sal Baptist

Address: 08904

Email: salana@gmail.com

General Comment

My transgender teenager was suffering from depression and anxiety following a sexual assault from someone who had formerly been my child's best friend for a decade. At one point, my teen ended up in the emergency room for suicidal ideation, whereupon almost every nurse and doctor consistently used the wrong name and pronouns, despite us having informed them all of the correct name and gender of my child. This despite studies having been recently released showing that transgender teens had much better mental health outcomes when supported in their transition, for example by using the preferred name and pronouns.

This wasn't a slip-up, this was 48 hours of near constant refusal to practice good medicine. (Except for two amazing nursing students.)

I don't know why these medical practitioners did this. They didn't explain their biases to us. It wasn't even the Catholic hospital in town.

To my way of thinking, though, if you take an oath to do no harm, and then you think your religion is telling you to do something which you know is harmful, whether by commission or omission, then you need to choose between your religion and your oath. And if you can't keep your oath, you shouldn't be in the medical field.

Exhibit 215

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 15, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-9214-yo86
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: API

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-28918

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Kimberly McDermott

Address: 98008

Email: mcdermott.kim@gmail.com

General Comment

I am a physician and I take care of some transgender young people. I object to this rule because I fear it would inhibit the ability of transgender youth to have equal access to medical care. They deserve the same access to care as any American, and if this rule passes a medical provider may refuse to provide them care if they choose. A provider's religious belief should not trump the Hippocratic Oath that we all take.

Exhibit 216

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 15, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-9212-1qea
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: API

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-29121

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Mark Blaho

Address: 19104

Email: mark.r.blaho@gmail.com

General Comment

I am a transgender person. I am at risk of discrimination every time I go to a new doctor, or dentist, or clinic. Because I am a person, I have a right to have my health needs addressed without fear of prejudice. Many people mistakenly believe that interacting with me with basic respect is me "forcing my lifestyle on them" or that they are somehow complicit in "sin". This is preposterous because only ask that people give me the same respect as all others.

This proposed rule could be used to excuse a doctor who refuses to treat me. If I am ever in a life-threatening situation, refusal of care could be deadly. The year I was born, Tyra Hunter was murdered by the staff of DC General Hospital. She was in a car accident, and needed surgery and a blood transfusion. In the inquiry, doctors noted that she would have had a 95% of survival if doctors had treated her. The staff of the hospital left her to bleed out in the waiting room because they thought she -- specifically, her body -- was disgusting. Imagine if you were me. Imagine that a doctor could look at your body and recoil in disgust, leaving you to die from internal bleeding. Does anyone deserve that?

I am strongly against this rule being implemented. It will be used to shelter abhorrent behavior, and not provide substantial protection for religious liberties.

Exhibit 217

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 15, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-920z-qw6n
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-29440

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Anonymous Anonymous

General Comment

Please do not pass this proposed rule. This rule would negatively impact my life and the lives of millions of Americans by potentially denying me access to healthcare because of something about myself that others do not like. That is not only blatantly unconstitutional, it is cruel and immoral. I suffer from a chronic health condition and also happen to be gay. I receive important treatments in an infusion clinic and routinely see many doctors in service of keeping my health. The possibility that my care could be impacted--leading to severe pain, inflammation, bleeding, and ultimately death--because someone's "conscience" thinks that I may be better off dead than treated like a human being is horrific. It is murder that this rule proposes and nothing more.

Exhibit 218

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 16, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-921v-n6hy
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-29678

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: John Vizard

General Comment

I live in CT, and am a proud father to four adult children: a gay son, two hetero sons and a hetero daughter. Along with my wife of 37 years, we are a very happy and loving family, and perhaps equally important, we are all good citizens!

Im writing in regards to the proposed Conscience regulation (published Jan. 26) that would prioritize individual physicians and other health care workers beliefs over access to critical care.

The right to believe in a faith is understood here in America, the Land of The Free. But no-one should impose their faith's beliefs on the lives of others - who also have the right to believe in who they are. The right to discriminate is not acceptable in America, and the voting booths will be seeing that play out later this year, in 2020 and beyond.

Please reconsider this regulation -- and make clear that discrimination has no place in this country, especially in healthcare.

Exhibit 219

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 12, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-91z5-bw7w
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-30075

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Jennifer Stull

General Comment

My daughter is transgender and her life is already difficult . She is a human being please recognize her as one.

Exhibit 220

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 11, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-91yk-aqfc
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: API

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-30257

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Abby Feenstra

Address: 84103

Email: abbyfeenstra@gmail.com

Organization: University of Utah

General Comment

I first started taking birth control pills when I was in high school. My use of oral contraception made it possible for me to graduate high school, college, and a Master's degree program without having to worry about having a baby. Because I had unfettered access to birth control, I was able to exercise autonomy over my own body and make sure I had a strong educational and financial foundation from which to build better opportunities for any future children I may have. Additionally, because I had the choice to not start a family before I was ready, I am a productive and contributing member of society. I currently work as an educator myself and empower college students every day to make the most of their potential. If I had become a mother before I was ready, I would likely be existing off of a broken welfare system and not be the impactful, tax-paying citizen that I am.

It is abhorrent to me to think that, despite the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court ruling that protects my right to my own body, a doctor or pharmacist could deny my access to birth control under this new rule. Doctors, pharmacists, and other health care workers should not be empowered to pick and choose who they believe is worthy of care. If a middle-aged woman with a wedding ring and two children in tow shows up at the grocery store pharmacy, could a pharmacist argue that, due to their religious beliefs that sexual intercourse should not take place outside of marriage, that woman can have access to birth control whereas I, a young, single, childless woman, can not? Your rule claims to protect religious freedom but it really only protects discrimination. This is a disgusting example of government overreach and I need you to immediately scale back this rule.

Exhibit 221

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 10, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-91xz-2d9t
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: API

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-30370

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Jennifer Hofmann

Address: 97305

Email: hofmann.jennifer@gmail.com

General Comment

Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights RIN 0945-ZA03

Although proposed by the Department of Health and Human Services, this proposal is not health, not human, nor a service.

As a woman, I want to know I can go to **any** doctor and receive any care I need. If I were raped, I (and all women) deserve the dignity of **any** physician offering access to all available options for removing unwanted seminal fluid and tissue.

As a lesbian, I deserve the confidence that if my wife were gravely ill, that **any** doctor would put the Hippocratic Oath before their personal preferences. The idea that a physician could deny care in life-threatening situations because they are squeamish or intolerant is unconscionable.

This proposal disproportionately reduces medical options for women and my neighbors who are lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, and intersex. It is blatant discrimination under the guise of religiosity.

Furthermore, it doesn't stand up to scrutiny. Would we tolerate Christian Science doctors refusing to dispense medicine? No. Would we tolerate Buddhist monk surgeons refusing to touch their female patients? No. Would we tolerate Jewish doctors refusing to care for anyone not of their faith? Never.

If this proposal were written by real Christians, they'd be inspired by a man who touched lepers and the unclean, women and the children alike to heal them. Instead, it's a whiny proposal by people feigning discrimination.

I roundly reject this proposal and hope its creators can find a shred of decency in their souls for people in need of compassion and medical care.

Exhibit 222

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 17, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-922q-7y43
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-33256

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Michael O'Connell

General Comment

Hello,

I have a gay son whom I love very much and I am very upset that you want to legalize discrimination against him.

My name is Michael O'Connell and I'm from Sammamish, WA. I'm writing in regards to the proposed Conscience regulation (published Jan. 26) that would prioritize individual physicians and other health care workers beliefs over access to critical care.

I am a patriot, having served in the military to protect our constitutional rights for everyone. The right to hold personal beliefs is guaranteed, but not the right to discriminate.

Studies have shown that 56% of lesbian, gay, and bisexual patients and 70% of transgender patients have experienced discrimination from a healthcare provider. Denial or delay of treatment is one of the most harmful ways LGBTQ patients face discrimination and can lead to long-term health problems or even death. This regulations protections seek to sanction these denials.

As proposed, this regulation contains no safeguards for ensuring that patients have access to legally available treatments like fertility treatment, HIV prevention and treatment, and medically necessary transition-related care.

Exhibit 223

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 20, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-924e-tb7e
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: API

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-34687

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Alexis Long

Address: 63701

Email: poetfox@getmeoutofthis.net

General Comment

As a transgender individual, I have been refused important treatment at local doctors. I have to drive for 2 hours in order to receive basic medical care, because I cannot find a doctor who will help me in my town. Someday this very well might kill me if I need immediate, life-saving care. The ability for someone's "conscience" to decide whether I live or die is unfair, and horrifying. This rule is going to make my life worse. It is actively discriminating against me. I am strongly against it.

Exhibit 224

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 20, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-924i-gx0i
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-34784

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Alexandria Koontz

General Comment

I write to oppose the proposed rule entitled Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care. This rule could encourage discrimination against LGBT people and those seeking reproductive health care, and it inappropriately puts the personal beliefs of health care providers over the health care needs of patients.

Myself and many of my community members struggle to afford healthcare as it is, even with full time jobs. I live in a rural area and even if you do have health insurance, access to healthcare is very difficult. I do not see how my sexual orientation, religion, or other parts of me that one might disagree with at a personal level has anything to do with my right to receive healthcare. This regulation, whatever it's intentions, will give those who are discriminatory the ability to act on this in a way that can harm the community and disproportionately provide support based on personal differences. I fear this will only further drive people apart.

Access to health care is a critical problem for many people, and HHS should not be making the problem worse by inviting health care institutions and providers to turn people away based on religious or moral reasons. Our nations largest health care agency should not be promoting discrimination. I oppose this proposed rule and urge HHS to withdraw it.

Exhibit 225

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 21, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-9258-xdq9
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-51707

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: James Edward Heck

Address: 23224

Email: nmb1flyingace@yahoo.com

General Comment

This proposed rule change is dangerous and could be used to justify discrimination against people for all kinds of unacceptable reasons. As a transgender man, I could be denied basic healthcare, whether or not it relates to my status as trans person, simply because someone has an objection to the way I dress or my choice to medically transition. This is no different from refusing care to someone because of their religion, race, or their status as a veteran. It is unethical and it would be unconstitutional. There is never a "good" reason to deny needed medical care, and care should never be based on basic individual characteristics such as gender expression or identity. Per the HHS website, "It is the mission of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) to enhance and protect the health and well-being of all Americans." If this is still true, then the creation of health disparities through rule changes such as that proposed, which would effectively limit access to care, is antithetical to the HHS mission.

Exhibit 226

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 22, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-925p-8d8j
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-53771

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Kayley Whalen

General Comment

As a transgender woman, I was denied breast augmentation surgery by a surgeon in Washington, DC in 2008. I was explicitly told he wouldn't operate on me because I was transgender.

Exhibit 227

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 22, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-925p-4vys
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-53784

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Marcy Sutton

General Comment

I am the mother of a LGBTQ adult and I must tell you I am going to fight every step until my dying breath to stop your hatred, discrimination, lack of knowledge as well as unchristian behaviors of tolerance. Your lack in compassion will be seen by all and one day your Ivory White towers will crumble in disgrace due to your bloody hands. My daughter was murdered 3 weeks after released from a hospital because of incompetence and lack of concern due to such a denial that all people really do bleed the same color. I work in medical field for many years and now you disgustingly create more of a hostile work environment. Thank you for nothing but more importantly you will carry the burden of how many lives you kill. Rest in HELL.

Exhibit 228

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 22, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-925p-3ar5
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-53790

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Debbie Nahhas

General Comment

My daughter deserves treatment

Exhibit 229

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 22, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-925v-xzli
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-54432

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Miles Molerio

General Comment

As a transgender individual I could be denied healthcare services that I desperately need if a healthcare provider chooses to discriminate against me.

Exhibit 230

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 22, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-925v-h45e
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-54439

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Priscilla Cortez

General Comment

As a queer woman needing care, healthcare discrimination is something that will affect me and my partner tremendously. We are also seeking to build a family of our own, and if this pushes through, I'm afraid that our efforts might be dampened.

Exhibit 231

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 22, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-925w-znmv
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-54481

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Beth Wrobel

General Comment

I have a transgender child and I really worry about future policies that could affect her access to health services. Everyone, especially regarding health care, should be served no matter who they are.

Exhibit 232

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 22, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-925w-xwh3
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-54485

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Reverend Joseph Shore-Goss

General Comment

As an openly gay minister living with AIDS this new rule is very scary for I could be denied service by any one who feels their beliefs do not agree with the way I live out mine. This could cause a possible disruption in the care and medication I require to stay a live. Even just a short interruption in my medicine could be devastating to the point of death. This rule puts myself and many others at unnecessary risk.

Exhibit 233

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-54505

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Carl Knorr

General Comment

Because I am gay and live in a rural area, my son (who is not gay) and I have been refused healthcare by our local clinic. As a result, we have been forced to seek a physician in another town rather than receive treatment from our local provider. This is simply wrong.

Exhibit 234

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-926f-sdo9
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-55833

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Amy Phillips

General Comment

I require hormones that I would/can lose if this is put into law! As, I'm Transgender and I'm also a very brittle type 1 diabetic. That I will always need constant care for for life also! So, for me to not being able to access healthcare. Would be an absolute death sentence too me! So, if this is a free country! Don't single me out as a non important part of society.

Exhibit 235

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-926f-cnpa
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Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-55944

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Cecilia Cox

General Comment

I work for an organization that provides medical care for transgender individuals. Many of them have ignored their own well-being and their health has suffered because they were afraid to go to a doctor. Or, they did go, but were discriminated against. They are terrified over care that most people take for granted. The proposed HHS changes will only exacerbate this problem, which could create a burden on the public health system when people are in crisis and are forced to seek emergency help.

Exhibit 236

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-56119

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Al Michael Gallucci

General Comment

My transgender child just received her Master's Degree in Chemical Engineering and is looking to dedicate her life to medical research. Is this the type of person you would want to deny medical benefits to?

Exhibit 237

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Tracking No.: 1k2-926h-eh6q
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Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-56146

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Noah Coleman

Email: noahcoleman@gmail.com

General Comment

The effort to provide exemptions for patient protections is dangerously misguided.

Please consider what if any medical provider complaints there are feeling "forced" to treat people that they don't wish to treat compared to those patients who deserve to be treated but who can't be.

I live in a more rural area of the country and worrying about disclosing my sexual preference shouldn't be a concern in trying to obtain health care. I can't imagine what it must be like for a transgender person. Can you?

Faith is personal and thus, one should not take on the study and practice of medical care if one is compelled only by faith that eschews exclusivity and judgment.

A mature society fashions protections for those who are marginalized, not for those who have a choice in what they wish to practice.

Access to healthcare should not be at the cost of a practitioners faith, but rather on need.

Thank you,

Noah Coleman
State College, PA

Exhibit 238

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-926i-car3
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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-56234

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Brennan Suen

General Comment

I am a gay man taking PrEP (Truvada) to prevent myself from HIV/AIDS and can tell you that dealing with health care while LGBT is not easy. I have had health care providers shame me away from protective measures like PrEP and make me feel uncomfortable, but I am one of the lucky ones. I have great insurance and a network of LGBT friends who were able to help me get a friendly provider, and I have the time and space to spend on it (including sick time off at work). It took me three months to get into an LGBT-friendly clinic in Washington, DC, one of the most LGBT friendly cities in the country. But not everyone has the privilege of waiting three months; not everyone has a workplace like mine; not everyone has insurance like mine; and not everyone has a network of LGBT friends who could help me find a provider. These problems compound for transgender members of the community, particularly those who live in rural or conservative places. These are our lives and health at risk, and we have every right to the same health care as the rest of the world. What is so wrong with treating us? Why are you so afraid of us? You are seeking a solution to a non-existent problem and risking lives for it.

Exhibit 239

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-56385

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Carlee Jensen

General Comment

I am a teacher, a queer woman, and a person of faith. I find it morally reprehensible that HHS would permit medical professionals to deny appropriate and compassionate care to any person, regardless of their identity or circumstances. To work in the caring professions demands humility; regardless of their specific position, people who enter these professions are morally obligated to suspend judgement of those who reach out to them in need, and to recognize that they do not - cannot - know the minds of others or the range of their formative experiences.

Exhibit 240

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-56666

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Lisa Bennek

General Comment

My daughter is transgender and no child choose this it is who they are and I love her. No person can truly understand to this effects their own family. Ever person in the world deserves good heath care especially my daughter she is a brave, smart and beautiful child. He being transgender was hard for me at first as it is for all parents but I see how happy she is being herself and I love her even more for her courage and bravery to be who she is. We need not to judge but support and provide the best possible love, guidance and healthcare to ensure they grow up to be the great individuals they are. Please do not take away her healthcare because you don't understand who she is. She is a wonderful person.

Exhibit 241

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-56725

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Elias Lawliet

General Comment

When I heard that the HHS department was allowing discrimination against transgender people by healthcare providers, I was both shocked and appalled. Regardless of whether or not one agrees with the existence of transgender people, we do exist. When providers are empowered and emboldened by the government which is supposed to represent, serve, and protect us, we become disposable citizens.

If a doctor can refuse to treat me, then I know I will be at my most vulnerable in emergency medicine situations. I already have providers who I can go to to manage my health, however, if I am in an auto accident or some other dire situation, I can not know or guarantee that the medics will help me, or that once I arrive at the hospital, the doctors will help me. American citizens like myself have died because of the prejudice, and shall do so again if this rule is put into action.

I am a 31 year old transgender man. I am politically active, and I am a scholar at a top university. I pay my taxes. There is no reason whatsoever that my health and wellbeing should be ignored or compromised simply because a doctor can say that my life is not worth saving. If this is passed, I will no longer feel safe traveling the 1700 miles between my home and where my family lives. My family is poor and can't afford to come see me. Effectively, I will be cut off from my loved ones for fear of what might happen to me in transit.

However, I recognize that I am privileged...those who will be most effected are those who are already less likely to get adequate medical care. Trans women, especially black trans women, are subject to violence and discrimination at the doctor's office very regularly. Both the 2012 National Transgender Discrimination Survey and the 2015 United States Transgender Survey support this empirically. Make no mistake, this regulation will result in the deaths of Americans. Some of these deaths will be the result of emergency medicine and split second decisions. Others will result from a culture of hostility bolstered by your regulation. Transgender people will not go to see a doctor if they are made to feel unwelcomed or endangered. This will result in negative health outcomes that will worsen over time.

The HHS is responsible for protecting ALL Americans, not just the Americans with the right bodies or genders. It is deeply shameful that the HHS has even considered such a discriminatory and disgusting regulation.

Sincerely,
Elias A. Lawliet

Exhibit 242

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-56736

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Jacques Borel

General Comment

As a healthcare professional myself, as well as a married gay man, father, and grandfather, allowing health professionals to disregard their practice oaths and refuse to treat people because they do not share the same religious beliefs is beyond abhorrent. If these "professionals" cannot bring themselves to serve those in need with their talents and skills, they need to find another line of work. None of us agree with everyone we treat and/or serve. This is dangerous perversion of the First Amendment. It will cause real harm to those who are most vulnerable. This administration should be ashamed to even propose to allow it to happen. Stop this madness now!

Exhibit 243

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Tracking No.: 1k2-9270-vrad
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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-57883

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Mary Silva

General Comment

Dear Madam, Sir,

My name is Mary Silva, a born lesbian. Im from Port Chester, NY, born in a very catholic environment, studied in a boarding nun school, Compania de Maria in Santiago de Compostela, Spain and later graduated from PACE University in New York. Im writing in regards to the proposed Conscience regulation (published Jan. 26) that would prioritize individual physicians and other health care workers beliefs over access to critical care.

Please put yourselves in our shoes and have sympathy for this critical situation and remember we are someone's daughter/son, sibling, grandchild, niece/nephew, aunt/uncle, friend.

Studies have shown that 56% of lesbian, gay, and bisexual patients and 70% of transgender patients have experienced discrimination from a healthcare provider. Denial or delay of treatment is one of the most harmful ways LGBTQ patients face discrimination and can lead to long-term health problems or even death. This regulations protections seek to sanction these denials.

As proposed, this regulation contains no safeguards for ensuring that patients have access to legally available treatments like fertility treatment, HIV prevention and treatment, and medically necessary transition-related care.

Exhibit 244

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Tracking No.: 1k2-928c-ytm8
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Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-64473

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Jane Cornelius

General Comment

This proposed rule change is dangerous and could be used to justify discrimination against people for all kinds of unacceptable reasons. My son is transgender and it scares me to think that his health could suffer, legally, because of this new rule.

Such action would be unethical and unconstitutional. As the HHS website states, "It is the mission of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) to enhance and protect the health and well-being of all Americans." If this is still true, then the creation of health disparities through rule changes such as that proposed, which would effectively limit access to care, is antithetical to the HHS mission.

Exhibit 245

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-64736

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Bonnie Burke

General Comment

I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate for local foster youth, and have been working for years to help them have access to the Transgender healthcare they have needed so urgently. I believe that they would not have survived this long without access to these resources. Please do not take this away from our most vulnerable youth!

Exhibit 246

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-64757

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Elisa Greco

General Comment

Almost all the clinics in our small rural area have very swlf-proclaimed christian employees. Years ago when I was pregnant at a late age, I wanted to discuss all my options with them. They put me off, beat around the bush, mostly on the abortion option, kept not calling me back, et, etc. When, after a while, I had a miscarriage and they finally took my panicked call, they said, "oh, we thought you might have a miscarriage" REALLY! And why did you refuse to tell me that! Rotten bastids!

Exhibit 247

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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-64850

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Eve Dartley

General Comment

As a queer teenager, I do not look forward to being denied proper care merely because of who I choose to love. Doctors and healthcare providers have a right to believe whatever they choose, but their job is to provide medical assistance, regardless of who they are. They are more than capable of putting religious beliefs aside to do their job, and if not, perhaps they are in the wrong profession.

Exhibit 248

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Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-64972

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Phillip Bernhardt-House

General Comment

As a gender-diverse queer person who is also struggling with several chronic illnesses (including type I diabetes and asthma), I've needed medical care for most of my life. I've had complications that follow from diabetes on several occasions previously, and when seeking medical treatment, I've been subjected to--for example--a podiatrist telling me unprompted why members of the LGBTQIA+ communities are "unnatural" and should not be allowed to "practice their lifestyles" while I was numbed up and receiving treatment on my feet. What might this doctor have said or done if he actually knew about my own identities? I have several friends who have been refused treatment, including in emergencies, due to their gender identities or sexual orientations in certain states. This is not remotely just, and is not what medical professionals have taken an oath to do (even though the Hippocratic Oath is not considered legally binding, I realize). This opens up some very disturbing possibilities, including refusal of medical services to those of different religions, especially if those other religions do not share the same viewpoints on gender or sexual orientation which a particular doctor or medical provider's has.

Exhibit 249

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-64978

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Malinda Lewis

General Comment

As a trans woman I have already experienced a bit of a lower class treatment. Though I am no different a god Then those who decide to discriminate. I believe in Karma every time I am abused in anyway good things come my way. After no good deed goes unpunished: -) of course.

Exhibit 250

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65021

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Carol Fletcher

General Comment

My son is an LGBT person. I want him to receive care just as any other member of my family would.

Exhibit 251

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Tracking No.: 1k2-928f-9zux
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Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65026

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Carole Plourde

General Comment

My daughter is a lesbian and my brother is a gay man and they both pay taxes. To discriminate against any citizen is wrong. To treat them as second class citizens is wrong. To deny them appropriate health care because of religious beliefs is wrong. I pay taxes and often my tax dollars go to religious institutions that I do not support and abstinence programs that I consider downright dangerous and heartless. No one has the right to discriminate in this country period.

Exhibit 252

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 26, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928f-5ks6
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65034

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Harper Ciha

General Comment

I experience a lot of shaming associated with healthcare discrimination. My privacy feels consistently violated because so many people adhere to the fictional trans narrative that gender affirmation surgery (GAS) is something that is easy to obtain and that many trans people have the resources to get GAS. It's not true, so many trans people are out there fighting for their sanity and lives daily because we are still defined by our fight for surgery.

Exhibit 253

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Tracking No.: 1k2-928f-aq7y
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Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65046

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Kris Johnson

General Comment

I am an active duty, transgender, Airman stationed on Okinawa. When I PCS'd, the only internist on the entire base refused to treat me due to her religious beliefs. Thankfully one of the Family Practice doctors had no issue but didn't have a lot of experience either. This often led to telephone consults to the US with a doctor who had no idea who I was. It was really sad too because I had a great internist at my previous duty station in northern Japan who had no issues starting me on hormones & learning everything she needed to learn to competently treat both my spouse & I. She said treating diabetics was harder than managing FTM hormones. I raised my right hand to give my life for my country. Shouldn't a doctor who wears the same uniform support ALL Airmen?

Exhibit 254

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Status: Posted
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Tracking No.: 1k2-928g-81f8
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65061

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Bob Wood

General Comment

As the father of a recently deceased LGBTQ son I am appalled at the efforts by the current admin. and other Conservatives groups to undermine what I consider to be a Constitutional right. I firmly believe that our son's life was cut short partially by the attitude of those who apparently Do Not believe that All Men Are Created equal. That affected his self-esteem and thus his personal health-care. Religion and moral beliefs are secondary to the Constitution, Bill Of Rights, Declaration of Independence and other foundations of our democracy. Stick to the law!!!!

Exhibit 255

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Tracking No.: 1k2-928g-xv4x
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65176

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Kit Golan

General Comment

As a trans man with a vagina and uterus, I need regular gynecological care. However, when i list "male" on my insurance, I get denied. I'm already invisible. The government souls be helping me gain access to MORE care, to better care. This bill will only serve to make it harder for transgender people like myself to access adequate health care.

Exhibit 256

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928g-3zk8
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65245

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Becky Hawkins

General Comment

As part of Portland's LGBT community, many of my friends moved here in order to live in relative safety, with access to trans-friendly healthcare. When people hear "transgender healthcare" they tend to think of hormone replacement therapy or surgery, but trans people also go to the doctor for things like allergy shots, traffic accidents, and sports injuries. In a political climate where baking a cake or processing a marriage license is considered a "threat to religious freedom," I dread what would happen if a loved one got in an accident and ended up in the hands of an EMT or doctor who feels unable to perform their duties for LGBTQ people.

Exhibit 257

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 26, 2018
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Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928g-p2uq
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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65282

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Angie McGee

General Comment

My sister is transgender and I already worry daily about the challenges--and discrimination--that she will face. If this rule goes into effect, it will give potentially life-saving medical personnel the authority to decide who gets to live and who should die. It is appalling to think that I could lose my sister one day, all because they personally do not agree with my sister's gender identity and expression. Worse, that it would be legal for them to let her die.

Exhibit 258

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65403

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Carrie-Meghan Quick-Blanco

General Comment

Living in a rural area is hard enough for ANYONE to gain access to care without the government letting healthcare providers claim religious exemption for any reason they want.

Exhibit 259

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65444

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Elizabeth Moore

General Comment

Many of my providers are well meaning but simply not knowledgeable about basic queer health issues. For example, at times when I've showed up at my doctor's office I've gotten a lecture about not being on birth control and unwanted pregnancies. Providers have also angrily asked "how I'm sure" that I'm not pregnant. Their assumptions about my body and what I'm doing with it are harmful when the provider acts as though I must be lying, or feels embarrassed about not considering that I might actually not be heteronormative and takes it out on me. These comments have at times caused me to avoid medical care. For my openly trans friends and loved one, these hostilities can be even more damaging. Trans people have already died because medical providers didn't want to administer emergency care. We don't need to go back to a time when that was a lingering, ever present fear.

Exhibit 260

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65472

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Michael Andersen

General Comment

First, I am transgender. Until recently, there has not been a lot of effort or research into the area of transgender health. Currently, it remains very difficult to locate a provider who is knowledgeable enough about the various processes involved to receive treatment. Contrary to general public knowledge and belief, as exemplified in Ricky Gervais' "Humanity", there is a lot more involved than just ripping off the genitals and creating a hole. First, it is important to dispel the myth that this is a choice. It is not a choice, it is a biological medical condition amenable to treatment. Please see the Endocrine Society treatment guidelines, available here: <https://www.endocrine.org/guidelines-and-clinical-practice/clinical-practice-guidelines/gender-dysphoria-gender-incongruence> for more information. See also the World Professional Association for Transgender Health ("WPATH") Standards of Care, available here: http://www.wpath.org/site_page.cfm?pk_association_webpage_menu=1351&pk_association_webpage=4655. As a medical condition, it deserves treatment. It is essential to get proper care for this, like any other, medical condition. Transgender individuals already face a mountain of obstacles. The transgender community has a suicide rate of about ten (10) times the adult national average. The unemployment statistics for the transgender community are equally desperate. Transgender individuals also face great difficulty with housing. See Grant JM, Mottet LA, Tanis J, Harrison J, Herman J, Keisling M. Injustice at every turn: a report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey. National Center for Transgender Equality and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; 2011. The murder rate of transgender people versus the general population is likewise substantially elevated, see http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2013/060.asp. Further in the realm of health coverage, it has been demonstrated that allowing coverage for transgender people does not have a substantial impact on the costs of large group plans. See 2.Herman JL. Costs and Benefits of Providing Transition-related Health Care Coverage in Employee Health Benefits Plans: Findings from a Survey of Employers. eScholarship. 2013 Sep 1 and the RAND study available at https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1530.html regarding the cost of transgender individuals in the U.S. military. Most States still allow insurance companies and employers to include blanket denial of coverage for transgender related services. In short, the Transgender community already faces systemic discrimination in the realms of health insurance, employment, and housing. In part as a result of deep societal misconceptions about the nature of the condition. This is readily apparent when looking at the high murder rates, suicide rates, unemployment rates, and homeless rates of transgender people versus the general population. This proposed regulation legitimizes and increases the discrimination against this already marginalized section of the American population; it is disgusting and uncalled for. I am firmly against this proposal. In short, being transgender is a bona fide medical condition, requiring very specific treatment regimens. Allowing medical professionals to deny service furthers and legitimizes the already systemic discrimination. Lastly, I believe that this regulation is unconstitutional. The religious/moral exception cannot be exercised where there is a legitimate state interest to the contrary. The State has a legitimate interest in the safety and wellbeing of its citizens. I believe this proposal violates my rights under equal protection as well because it appears plain that the target of this rule is already marginalized groups, such as mine. As an example, if I, once I complete transition, were to go to a doctor and explain that as a female I was concerned about prostate cancer and request a screening, I could face a substantial likelihood of

denial of service because I am transgender. If a cisgender male were to walk into the same clinic with the same concern, it is unlikely anyone would exercise this right. The same applies to the entirety of the LGBT community. This proposed legislations in blatantly intended to discriminate, and it hits its mark perfectly.

Exhibit 261

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65476

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Cori Hander

General Comment

I cannot hide the fact that I am gay from a medical provider. When they ask questions about my medical history, I have to share that information--especially when it might be relevant to a health problem. But given this, every time I go in for a routine checkup, I could be subjecting myself to discrimination. If doctors can refuse me care that they provide to other people, then I would not be able to get care when I get sick.

Exhibit 262

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65494

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Hayden Thomas

General Comment

I'm a closeted trans man. I've identified as trans for half a decade now, but fear of violence and discrimination has prevented me from coming out. This fear is so pervasive that it has prevented me from getting medical care that I need, both physical and mental, because there is nothing legally protecting me from discrimination. The United States has demonstrated time and time again that they would rather have trans people suffer and even die from easily treatable conditions and ailments. If you believe any part in the idea that the US is a place of freedom and equality, and that everyone is guaranteed the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, then it is a moral obligation to support transgender people and their right to healthcare.

Exhibit 263

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65495

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Jessica Teller

General Comment

As a cis queer woman, I have faced enormous struggles in getting the healthcare I need from doctors who have even the best of intentions -- I don't believe anyone should face additional unfair & discriminatory hurdles to receive care, and medical professionals should not be exempt from their duty of care based on their personal beliefs.

Exhibit 264

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65538

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Carly Manes

General Comment

As a woman needing different types of reproductive health care throughout my life, health care discrimination could impact me by a doctors unwillingness to provide the care I need because they don't believe I have a right to make decisions about my own body. This could be denial of abortion care or family planning services. No one has the right to deny me health care because they don't like what I choose for myself.

Exhibit 265

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65543

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Angela Brtidgman

General Comment

I am a transgender woman who was not only refused gender-confirming treatment I had begun in another state, but was sexually assaulted in the same visit...by a doctor who then had the nerve to claim moral objection to treating me. I had moved, in 1997, to Louisville, KY from the Lehigh Valley in Pennsylvania. I had begun hormone therapy pertinent to gender confirming treatment, ultimately leading to final surgery in 2002, in Bangkok, Thailand. But, in 1997, I went to the U of Louisville Endocrinology Department...to continue treatment for hormone therapy I had already begun. Not only was I denied service, but was in fact sexually assaulted first, THEN denied treatment. And the doctor who did this had the NERVE to claim "moral/religious objection" to treating me...AFTER he had sexually assaulted me. This occurrence is a matter of public record, I reported the incident when it occurred, to the Jefferson County Medical Review Board, and attended a hearing...at which I watched this doctor get a mere slap on the wrist. I am sorry, but NO DOCTOR has any business with his hand up the skirt of a patient he knows full well he has no intention to treat! The history is here. This stuff happens to us. And if Trump greenlights it...it will become more common. What occurred to me has haunted me for two decades, and irrevocably harmed me in many ways...for which I can never obtain justice...and no amount of money would make right...what was done to me anyway. I was sexually assaulted, my dignity stripped from me, and care denied me...in the name of a doctor's "moral convictions" when those same "moral convictions" did not stop him from sexually assaulting me! Regardless of the wording or intent of this sort of edict, we in the transgender community know precisely how it will be applied. It will be applied to deny us not only gender-confirming care, but even basic routine care that would be provided to any other person. We expect and demand our government to affirm and acknowledge that our lives, and our dignity, and our care...are every bit as precious...and every bit as valuable...as any non-transgender citizen of this country! And this outrage simply needs to be stopped in its tracks. To this day, I cannot even see a new doctor without fear and dread that I will be mistreated and assaulted. Just last year, I was forced to change doctors, thanks to insurance...from the doctor I trusted...and I went to another of my doctors, LITERALLY IN TEARS...begging her to help me find a doctor I could actually trust. In this time, when people are routinely forced by insurance companies...to sever relationships with healthcare providers they TRUST...and see ones they do not even know...for those of us who have experienced what I did...this is very traumatic...even without this proposed new regulation...which can only further harm my community. With no protections in place for people like me who experience what I did, and no avenue for justice available when and if such occurs...this proposal must not be adopted. We are citizens too, and we expect our government to protect us, our rights, and our rights to healthcare...and to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness...such is our birthright as Americans.

Exhibit 266

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65776

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Hannah Howard

General Comment

As a woman and a queer person, I should not be discriminated against because of my identity. All people deserve health care that is understanding, kind, and informed. Doctors take a pledge to do no harm and this proposed change would do incredible harm.

Exhibit 267

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65584

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Amy Cotton

General Comment

My female partner has survived breast cancer. I want to be certain that in the future, should she need care for residual or new cancer related issues, will will get quality, compassionate care that respects her. Or, should I ever need care for a serious condition, I hope doctors would respect me and provide the highest quality care without regard to my sexual orientation. Additionally, I would expect the medical professionals who care for us also respect our relationship to one another, as loving partners and caregivers for each other. I also currently use birth control and may one day plan to become pregnant. A health provider should not have the right to interfere in my ability to use hormonal contraception or in any other pregnancy related decision I may one day need to make. As a queer Jewish woman, I respect another person's right to hold their own personal, moral beliefs. But a health provider's personal beliefs should not determine the type of care a patient receives.

Exhibit 268

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65608

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Evan Cass

General Comment

I am a transgender man. If a physician refuses to treat, say, my broken arm on the basis of religious freedom, I will be denied medically necessary care simply for who I am. I should not fear seeking basic or emergency medical care because medical providers are entitled to discriminate against me.

Exhibit 269

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65634

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Aurora Adams

General Comment

As a transgender woman I have been denied treatment because of my identity. I almost died because of it. Life matters. My life matters. Every single life matters. Since there are few health care providers who are already educated, it is their duty to provide health care. It is their duty to not do harm. Whether by action or inaction they must not do harm

Exhibit 270

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65643

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Jeannette Page

General Comment

As a queer person, I already face potential discrimination from health care providers, and get asked irrelevant or ignorant questions once I share that I'm not straight. All LGBTQ people deserve quality health care free from bias and discrimination.

Exhibit 271

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65660

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Mimi Micner

General Comment

As a queer woman, I rely on healthcare like all human beings. A doctor has an obligation by oath to give care to all people, including me. This is not only cruel and inhuman, but it goes against medical ethics.

Exhibit 272

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65661

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Debreita Taylor

General Comment

As a woman of color that identifies as queer I am afraid that racism, bigotry and homophobia will greatly restrict and diminish the quality of my health care should the so-called "religious or moral" discrimination be given to U.S. health care professionals.

Exhibit 273

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65781

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: marit pollei

General Comment

I am bisexual, and thus far I've been extremely lucky to have had both supportive family and mostly supportive medical care- although if you asked most of my medical care team through the years, the majority would have had no idea I was bi because I didn't feel comfortable bringing it up. I told my therapist I was bi, and she dismissed that as a concern by saying 'oh, but this is California, and anyway, you're married to a man.' sure. erasure of a big part of myself isn't any big deal, right? still, small potatoes compared to what I've experienced on the provider side as an EMT. I've seen patients already under observation for suicidal ideation be misgendered, even after being corrected. I've heard patients be told that it doesn't matter if their girlfriend had sex with some guy, it's not like women-only sex is risky in the same way. I've watched as estranged family have been able to wrest care away from loved ones despite legal, signed POLSTs and DNRs. I've had patients being treated for simple mechanical injuries be brought to tears because they saw my pin (a rebel alliance starbird on a bi pride flag) and were so happy that they didn't have to watch their words or actions. I used to be closed-off about talking with patients about incidental things (oh, you have the same dog as my ex-girlfriend! I love boxers!) because I was worried about professionalism and negative reactions. but I've seen enough times where that has clearly helped my patients that I changed my mind, and no longer self-edit. still can't donate blood, though- and that affects everyone.

Exhibit 274

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65808

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Barbara Penzner

General Comment

I am a rabbi. I have known and worked with gay, lesbian, and transgender individuals for forty-five years. I know people who have not had access to doctors, who have been denied access to visit ill partners, and who are afraid to go to a doctor for fear of rejection or worse. They are people, after all. Human beings in need of care. Doctors swear an oath: first do no harm. Isn't that the standard we should expect from all health care providers?

Exhibit 275

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65819

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Dale Melchert

General Comment

To whom it may concern, I am a transgender and queer person. I have faced obstacles to receiving respectful health care when I began to transition. I regularly must explain health care professionals why my medical records have the gender marker "f" when I present as a man. This results in regular misgendering (using the wrong titles and pronouns). Even well meaning professionals say highly offensive things such as commenting on my appearance. Doctor's have asked me voyeuristic questions about what surgeries I have or haven't had that are not relevant to what i'm being treated for such as asthma. As it is, there is so much misunderstanding and lack of basic competence to treat transgender people with dignity in health care settings. Furthermore, transgender people often rely heavily on health care in order to affirm our gender identities--indeed such care is often life saving. Without having trans-affirming health care providers many trans people must seek dangerous treatment that is unregulated and unauthorized. This leads to their criminalization simply for attempting to receive life saving care. This law is plainly a license to discriminate. There is no legitimate reason for its creation. If it is adopted it will undoubtedly cost human lives.

Exhibit 276

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65846

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Jane Doe

General Comment

As a queer woman, I know how terrible it feels to be seen by doctors that do not affirm my identity or healthcare needs. I have had doctors make assumptions about me, ask offensive questions, and not understand my reproductive health needs. This contributes to health-related anxiety and makes me reluctant to seek medical help. Everyone, regardless of gender and/or sexual orientation, deserves comprehensive, thorough, and affirmative healthcare that fits their needs. I strongly oppose the proposed regulation.

Exhibit 277

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65860

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Sojourner Davidson

General Comment

As a trans and queer individual I have received biased care based on my sexuality and gender identity. I was asked inappropriate questions and told that my gender and sexual identity was invalid and was just a phase or a mental illness. This interaction caused me great distress; as a result I had a seizure not much later in the day. The legislation you propose would make practices and behaviors like this far more wide spread and welcome. I ask you not to adopt this policy for the well-being of LGBTQ+ people and their loved ones in every state.

Exhibit 278

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Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65868

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Katrina Martin

General Comment

Thankfully, I have not yet experienced discrimination of this kind. But as a queer woman, it outrages me that I, along with my fellow friends and family in the gay community, could be denied health care, a basic human right. Please stop the moral/religious exemption rule

Exhibit 279

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Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-65966

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Milo Alfarero

General Comment

Healthcare discrimination is a very real fear that I fear could happen to me because I have experienced small instances in the past because of my gender identity. Bring nonbinary would prevent me from receiving holistic care from healthcare providers under 'religious exemption' from receiving care. Too many trans people have already died because the conversation has did not occur and now you have a duty to set the expectations clearly for healthcare providers.

Exhibit 280

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Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-66068

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Yvonne Datta

General Comment

My daughter is gender queer. I need her to be able to receive the care she needs. As a physician, I have had several transgender patients tell me about how other physicians treated them badly. We need to ensure just and equitable healthcare. No health care provider should be able to automatically turn someone away for "moral" reasons.

Exhibit 281

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 26, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928h-4c14
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-66076

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Mikayla Bourque

General Comment

As a transgender patient when I first came out to my primary doctor I had to fight because my medical records was not changed, even after both my federal passport and drivers license by adoption this religious freedom you are making it easier for doctors to refuse service which is against both the oath nurses take to do no more harm and the doctors oaths.

Exhibit 282

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928h-stnh
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Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-66128

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Melanie Martin-Peele

General Comment

As a queer cis-gendered woman, I have experienced discrimination and poor quality care when I have been seen by biased providers. Laws like this one will only allow such unethical and immoral treatment of patients to continue, and it is not in the spirit of our the founders of our country. This law cannot be allowed to pass. In addition, I am a Licensed Professional Counselor, working for a Nationally-Based Catholic Hospital system. The vast majority of my patients are poor, people of color, living in an urban environment. My LGBTQ, trans, and women patients have told me countless stories of discriminatory behavior by medical providers - up to and including sexual assault. Passing this law would only give any perception that this type of behavior is acceptable. It is not. It is un-American.

Exhibit 283

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 26, 2018
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Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928k-jstn
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-67700

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Alison Derringer

General Comment

As a queer woman, I have been treated differently by medical providers. I have had doctors ask invasive questions about my sex life, experience with sexual trauma, and have also not been provided accurate information regarding how to prevent and treat sexually transmitted diseases. Now, as the partner of a transman and the mother of two children, I regularly have to answer questions about our use of a sperm donor, current birth control methods, etc. I have had so many doctors ask invasive questions about our family that I now simply say my husband has been "sterile since birth," rather than explaining our situation. This means I am not getting medically accurate treatment from my team, especially regarding management of STIs. Our family is also impacted by anti-trans insurance policies, and have paid approximately \$40,000 out of pocket for medically necessary transgender health services. This has a direct impact on our quality-of-life, financial health, and ability to provide appropriate resources to our children. Medical care is a right, not a privilege. Do not write discrimination into our federal policy.

Exhibit 284

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928k-co5e
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Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-67741

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Jean Lewandowski

General Comment

I am a proud and happy grandmother today because my daughter, with the steadfast support of her wife, was able to take advantage of in vitro fertilization and bear two beautiful children. She was also treated without question for blood clots resulting from the in vitro process, complications with the birth of their first child and a series of infections following the birth of their second child. We are all beyond thankful that they live in a state and city where discrimination against LGBTQ people is almost unheard of. We could not be enjoying the blessings of this beautiful family if our daughter and her wife had been denied medical services, and we must oppose all attempts to allow that kind of discrimination to become codified.

Exhibit 285

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928k-gy1l
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Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-67805

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Robin Hicks

General Comment

We lost a dear transgender friend who after years of moving up the kidney transplant list, was told by a doctor that he was not going to 'waste' a kidney on such a person. Dialysis could no longer sustain her and following the inhumane decision by the doctor she died within 2 months.

Exhibit 286

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 26, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928l-24qr
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-67843

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: John Whitney

Address: 78702

Email: johndwhitney@gmail.com

General Comment

My name is John Whitney and I'm an openly and proud gay man living in Austin, TX. I wish to leave a comment expressing my strong disapproval of the proposed rule: "Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority".

In particular, I find it quite concerning how these sets of regulations proposes to regulate and enstate by law, what we as Americans know to be the wrong side of history (think of slavery, racism, women's right to vote) on such a fundamental right such as health care when it comes to minority communities like that of the LGBTQ. Our country has a history of putting regulations in place for things we fear, only being proven by history and time that we are not upholding our core fundamental beliefs as a country and ultimately writing shameful chapters in our history.

After reading through this set of regulations and trying to understand its impact, it seems that once again, what is being protected against is something out of "fear" and not based upon reality and data. What IS true is that there DOES need to be strong regulations and rulings in place in defense of civil rights violations (i.e., being discriminated against which DOES have 1000's of submissions to this department) versus defending religious civil liberty. Instead, this proposal over-regulates a problem that does NOT really exist, but yet is a "feared" outcome as LGBTQ minorities express their rightful civil liberties to live, breathe, and be happy within these United States which includes seeking health care when we ourselves OR our family members/ sons/daughters are put in harm's way.

Bolstering health care providers ability to discriminate and turn away these communities out of their conscience / religious beliefs does NOT move our country in the direction that is promised by the constitution in my opinion.

Not only will I be personally negatively impacted by such measures, but I have countless friends/allies and their family members who will also be negatively impacted by moving in this direction.

Please take my comment as what it is intended to be, a severe disapproval of the measures and the reasoning that is driving them.

Exhibit 287

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-9281-vfw3
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Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-67907

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Dawn Bennett

General Comment

As a queer female minister I need my healthcare to stay in tact. The loss of coverage would be very detrimental to my well being and would prevent me from my vocation.

Exhibit 288

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 26, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-9281-yr60
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-67959

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Sidney-Kay Hildebrand

General Comment

No one should be refused care based on their gender preference or lifestyles. I'm woman married to a man, but I consider myself pansexual, not straight, nor gay, nor bi-sexual. I fall in love with personalities, not genders.

Exhibit 289

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-9281-8jkb
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: API

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-68006

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Victor Ament

Address: 80206

Email: 1950rabbi@gmail.com

General Comment

Almost 22 years ago I had to make decisions that allowed my wife and mate to die with dignity. She had MS that jumped from the Mylin layer to the grey matter of her brain. She started having seizures that were only controlled by inducing a coma. She also lost her ability to swallow. After 10 day per her wishes I implemented her written instructions and worked with the hospital to start a path that allowed her to be comfortable while she passed. The feeding tube was removed and she was put on just enough morphine to prevent the seizures and keep her comfortable. For 3 weeks I lived in her room and watched her slowly deteriorate until I had to finally give her permission to go. A couple hours later she was gone. One nurse who had been on vacation and was not brought up to speed on her case, decided she was going to save her. Needless to say, when the rest of the staff quickly figured this out, she was immediately removed from any interaction with my wife.

Had Colorado had a choice of dying with dignity law, we would have opted for that process to save my mate from the horrendous indignity of starving herself to death and causing me the psychiatric trauma which causes me to be under psychiatric care to this day.

As the decisions were being made on how we would care for my wife, we met with the hospitals ethics board and all the legal documents were reviewed as was the proposed course of treatment. My rabbi was present and on the way out of the meeting, I asked her to research the Jewish Sages to determine if my decisions were within Jewish practices. She got back to me a few days later and said that when the Sages were young, they wrote of the sanctity if life, but as they grew older and had to face the realities of aging and caring for the terminally ill, their writings changed to a more practical position that allowed for not extending life needlessly.

Without a strong advocate such as myself, my wife would have been destined to a facility where she would have been warehoused indefinitely, bankrupting me and destroying our family. What good is there in doing that?

I urge you to NOT implement regulations that takes dignity from those who are dying.

Exhibit 290

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928n-nk5o
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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-68478

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Catherine Smith

General Comment

This legislation affects me personally as I am transgender.

Exhibit 291

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 26, 2018
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Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928n-d2k0
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-68500

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Taylor Adams

General Comment

As a queer person, I could be denied the healthcare I need because of a doctor's discriminatory beliefs. Because of my fear of being discriminated against I have refrained from being honest with my doctor's because my need for healthcare is reasonably high and I can't afford to get lesser treatment, or refused altogether.

Exhibit 292

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Tracking No.: 1k2-928n-5I9k
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Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-68522

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Annette Simon

General Comment

Discrimination affects my daughter, who is transgender. Which means it also affects me, her mother. And her father. Her brother. Her grandparents. Her aunts and uncles and cousins and colleagues and friends. Ripples continue. Shall they be hurtful and discriminatory? Or helpful, decent, and fair?

Exhibit 293

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Tracking No.: 1k2-928n-ymdn
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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-68566

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Isaiah Levinson

General Comment

Health should not discriminate. As a transgender person, getting adequate and holistic healthcare is already extremely difficult. I oppose the proposed legislation because it would endanger the lives of LGBTQ+ across the country, who deserve access to healthcare equal with the access given to non-LGBTQ+ people.

Exhibit 294

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Tracking No.: 1k2-928o-78py
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-68627

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Timothy Gardner

General Comment

As a queer person I search for doctors who will treat me with respect. Please do not make this harder for me then it already is.

Exhibit 295

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 26, 2018
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Tracking No.: 1k2-928o-s5kd
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-68688

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Amber briggle

General Comment

My 10 year old son is transgender and I am concerned that this rule will allow his doctors to even deny him a strep test or administer a vaccination because he's trans. What if - God forbid - we are in an accident and the responding emt refuses cpr to save his life? What happens when his pharmacist denies him his asthma inhaler because of his gender identity? We are better than thus as a nation.

My sweet baby- my son - is counting on US to keep him safe. Will you?

Exhibit 296

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 26, 2018
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Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928p-mz9q
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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-68830

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Linda Banez

General Comment

I'm 77 and I REALLY dislike misleading titles on proposed legislation. This legislation will not protect rights; it will deprive me of mine. I'm entitled to information about my medical options. If a doctor (or anyone) says - sorry, Linda, I have religious beliefs that dictate that folks should suffer before they die - they I can find myself another doctor. If the doctor (or anyone) HIDES behind this legislation, then they are deliberately misleading me. That angers me. Or, as the young people say, that pisses me off! Linda Banez, Seal Beach, Calif. 90740

Exhibit 297

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Tracking No.: 1k2-928p-za4z
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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-68863

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Mary Dalsin

General Comment

My young son is just starting to navigate his sexual identity and deserves the right to services that see his whole self not just a label. My young son has just started to navigate his sexual identity and he and others deserve to be treated as whole humans - not how it's government wished to categorize or discriminate against them

Exhibit 298

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928q-3yp8
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Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-69089

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Carla Skidmore, RN

General Comment

I have a wonderful transgender grandson, of whom I am so proud. He and his partner are great people with good goals, they are kind, courteous, intelligent and articulate! To deny health care to someone due to their gender orientation, or sexual identity, belies an agency that is supposed to consist of educated men and women who deal in science, not religious bigotry. What part of your education is missing? Did you sleep through your classes in biology?

Exhibit 299

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928q-7s4g
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Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-69113

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: John Otto

General Comment

As a transgender person, I have sometimes been treated differently--and not as well--as I would have been treated otherwise. I have had to pressure physicians to do routine tests and treatments that anyone else would have been able to obtain easily. This is not right. I am not someone who is easy to deter, which is the only reason I was successful in getting the treatment I needed. The average person would not have been able to do this.

Exhibit 300

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928q-giwn
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-69132

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Joan Parker

General Comment

I am the MOTHER of a TRANSGENDER adult child. I also know thousands of Transgender people. Fortunately most have been able to locate Doctors who understand their medical requirements.

Exhibit 301

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928r-qfd0
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Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-69170

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Leslie Telleria

General Comment

As a bisexual cis woman, I have the privilege of passing in society as straight. There are no questions about my sexuality or beliefs just by my appearance or expression, and because of this, I've never faced discrimination from my queer identity. However, I shouldn't have to be writing a note to the Department of Health and Human Services in regards to the potential of a caretaker refusing to see purely based on who I love. This is an outrage that, with an already toxic health care plan under Trump, there has been yet another obstacle for people of minority communities to remain safe and get the protection and treatment they deserve. It's a shame that I have to take the time out of my day to do this, to ensure that my LGBTQ sisters, brothers, and folks get denied care for being who they are.

Exhibit 302

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
Received: March 26, 2018
Status: Posted
Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928r-8ziw
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-69193

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Anne Dal Vera

General Comment

I am fortunate to have a trans gender doctor who understands the health issues of lesbians. In rural Colorado this is rare. I know that health care should be accessible to all. Please do not allow discrimination of any kind.

Exhibit 303

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-928r-bpq3
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Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-69197

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Kate Bishop

General Comment

I'm a 44-year-old queer woman living with uncontrolled diabetes, depression that significantly impacts my functioning, and an IUD to treat a uterine fibroid. If I don't have access to an LGBTQ-affirming, knowledgeable provider, my daily well-being suffers and my lifespan gets shorter. I've been seen by providers who don't ask questions about my relationships and sexual health. Like most people, if they don't ask, I don't feel comfortable bringing it up. When I can't be my whole self in the exam room, it's really hard to answer the questions with full honesty, which means the provider can't give me the most appropriate treatment and coaching to help me be well. We all deserve better than this, we deserve health care that acknowledges our full humanity. Please shut down this proposed regulation.

Exhibit 304

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Posted: March 29, 2018
Tracking No.: 1k2-9292-r76h
Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: API

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-69894

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Anonymous Anonymous

Address: 01864

Email: drudolph@mombian.com

General Comment

"When my spouse and I had our son, we were lucky enough to live in an area where the hospital staff was welcoming to same-sex couples. Our son was born via C-section, and my spouse had to stay in the hospital for several days afterward. If the hospital had not welcomed our family, we would have had to seek care at a greater distance from our home and with more stress on our family--stress that would not have been good for our newborn son.

In health care, the needs of patients must always come first. This new proposal from HHS encourages health care providers to abandon this core principle in favor of their personal beliefs. That puts lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer patients, our children, people who need reproductive health care, and many others at risk of being denied necessary and even life-saving care. LGBTQ people and our children already face high levels of discrimination by health care providers.

Along with medical experts and many people of faith, I oppose the proposed regulation. Promoting discrimination is wrong, it is unnecessary, and can harm millions of LGBTQ people - and our six million children in the United States - who need access to basic care."

Exhibit 305

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: June 22, 2019
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Comments Due: March 27, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: HHS-OCR-2018-0002

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Comment On: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-0001

Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

Document: HHS-OCR-2018-0002-69948

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-01226

Submitter Information

Name: Joseph Freund

Address: 50321

Email: drjosephfreund@ucsdsm.org

General Comment

RE: Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority

As a family doctor who provides care to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer patients I strongly object to this proposed regulation, which I see as simply a way to discriminate against LGBTQ patients, and refused service and the medical care they need and deserve. One's religious beliefs should not be a license to discriminate and deny care because they have a moral or religious belief that is contrary to someone living in integrity.

As a gay man it is frightening to consider that I could be denied care because I am gay which conflicts with a provider's religious belief.

This proposed regulation goes way too far and should not be adopted.