

ORIGINAL HOUSE
JOINT RESOLUTION
NO. 0007

ENGROSSED

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2012 BUDGET SESSION

A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress and the President of the United States to reverse the policy of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regarding health plan coverage of sterilization, abortifacients and contraception.

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2012 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reaffirmed a rule that virtually all private health care plans must cover sterilization, abortifacients and contraception; and

WHEREAS, there are religious faiths in the United States that view sterilization, abortifacients and contraception as immoral and view paying for them as against their religion; and

WHEREAS, the administration is attempting to force those religious faiths and their institutions, including schools and hospitals to violate the commandments of their faith by paying for this mandate; and

WHEREAS, this mandate violates the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States by denying these faiths the free exercise of their religion; and

WHEREAS, this mandate sets a precedent that would allow for an opposite law forbidding the coverage of these items thus denying faiths with opposing views the free exercise of their religion; and

WHEREAS, the mandate threatens the religious freedoms of all Americans; and

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WHEREAS, it is an injustice to force Americans to choose between violating their consciences and forgoing their healthcare; and

WHEREAS, longstanding federal laws expressing the decided opinion of Congress and the American people have protected Constitutional conscience rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

Section 1. That the Wyoming Legislature call on all Americans to defend our freedom of religion by opposing this mandate.

Section 2. That the Wyoming Legislature calls upon The President to reverse the mandate of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Section 3. That the Wyoming Legislature calls upon Congress to act in defense of First Amendment rights, states' rights, rights of conscience and freedom of religion.

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Section 4. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation.

(END)

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Governor

TIME APPROVED: _____

DATE APPROVED: _____

I hereby certify that this act originated in the House.

Chief Clerk