



Dear Senators,

We represent a wide range of religious organizations with a range of views on contraceptives, but have joined together on this letter to express our strong opposition to S.2878, sponsored by Senators Murray, Reid, Udall, and others in response to the Supreme Court's ruling in the Hobby Lobby case.

S.2578 is legislative remedy whose explicit purpose is to restrict religious freedom. We cannot think of a prior legislative proposal with the purpose of curtailing this fundamental constitutional right that was entertained by the Senate, let alone given immediate consideration on the floor without so much as a single hearing in committee.

S.2578 would be the first piece of legislation that in effect will amend -- undermine -- the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, a vital measure written by Senators Ted Kennedy and Orrin Hatch which passed the Senate in 1993 on a 97-3 vote, was adopted unanimously by the House, and was signed into law, proudly, by President Clinton.

S.2578 is unnecessary. There are many other legislative ways to ensure that women have access to the health care services at issue in the Hobby Lobby case without forcing small business owners to violate their religious beliefs.

This current reaction to the Hobby Lobby decision, which wrongly pits women's health interests against religious freedom, is harmful and misguided. Our organizations are prepared to work with any people of good will to address the issue constructively.

We urge you to reject S.2578 and instead to work to produce legislation that serves the interests and values of all Americans.

Very respectfully,

Stephanie A. Summers
CEO, Center for Public Justice

Dr. Stanley Carlson-Thies
President, Institutional Religious Freedom Alliance and Senior Fellow, Center for Public Justice