



Statement to Accompany Submission of
Catholic College Comment on
HHS Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

April 5, 2013

As one of the signatories to the attached Catholic College Comment on the NPRM, Thomas Aquinas College of Santa Paula, California wishes to convey its vigorous opposition to the narrow religious exemption provided by the proposed rule and to the rule's requirement that Catholic institutions facilitate insurance coverage for services which are contrary to the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church.

Central to the mission of Thomas Aquinas College is its fidelity to the teachings of the Church and its commitment to reflecting those teachings in its educational program. Thomas Aquinas College is also committed to maintaining a student residential community and a workplace fully in accord with the moral principles of the Catholic faith.

It is vitally important for us to join with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, other Catholic not-for-profit organizations, and those for-profit organizations committed to conducting their business in fidelity to their Catholic/Christian convictions, in bearing witness to our Catholic faith for the sake of our students, faculty, alumni, friends, and benefactors. Accordingly, by submitting the attached Comment, we wish to express our opposition to the HHS contraceptive mandate in the strongest possible terms.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael F. McLean".

Michael F. McLean
President