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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services
3 Kathleen Sebelius has issued an order directing most American
4 employers, including religious organizations and religious
5 institutions, to provide specific insurance as part of the
6 Affordable Health Care Act; and

7 WHEREAS, The First Amendment to the United States
8 Constitution protects the free exercise of religion; and

9 WHEREAS, President James Madison, the father of our
10 Constitution, understood that "religion then of every man must
11 be left to the conviction and conscience of every man; and it
12 is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate";
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The required practices directly contravene the
15 teachings and beliefs of many religious denominations and their
16 practitioners; and

17 WHEREAS, The religious leaders of many faiths and others
18 believe the order infringes on First Amendment rights and have
19 denounced it as an assault on religious liberty and the right
20 of conscience of many citizens; and

1 WHEREAS, President Thomas Jefferson warned that "to suffer
2 the civil magistrate to intrude his powers into the field of
3 opinion and to restrain the profession or propagation of
4 principles, on the supposition of their ill tendency, is a
5 dangerous fallacy, which at once destroys all religious
6 liberty"; and

7 WHEREAS, President Obama's administration has not offered
8 a right of conscience exemption and has instead proposed an
9 "accommodation" for religious organizations and institutions,
10 indicating institutions will not have to pay for the insurance
11 coverage contrary to their religious tenets "directly"; and

12 WHEREAS, There remains significant debate and ambiguity
13 over the manner in which the Administration's modified order
14 would be implemented; and

15 WHEREAS, The order would dramatically affect the ability of
16 many religious-affiliated schools, universities, and health
17 care facilities to continue to provide educational and health
18 care services to their employees and families and to people of
19 faith; and

20 WHEREAS, The order would seemingly supersede existing
21 Illinois statutes, including the 1998 Health Care Right of
22 Conscience Act; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge Congress to override the order
4 created by the Obama administration in its entirety; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
7 delivered to President Barack Obama, Health and Human Services
8 Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, and the members of the Illinois
9 congressional delegation.