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Jeff Colyer, M.D., Lieutenant Governor

Sam Brownback, Governor

January 18, 2012

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Last year the Obama Administration made the decision to mandate that religiously-affiliated employers offer health insurance that will pay for sterilization, contraceptive, and abortifacient drugs at no cost to their employees. For over a year, leaders in faith communities all across this country have fought to maintain the religious freedoms this country was founded upon. President Obama's policies are a slap in the face to a country whose first citizens arrived here in search of religious liberty.

America has long been a safe haven for those of differing beliefs. Our founders recognized the importance of religious freedom and enshrined this right in the First Amendment. Despite this, the Obama Administration has forged ahead with health care policies that mandate violations of conscience, and require the devotedly religious to disregard the teachings of their faith.

As you consider House Bill 2203, the federal government's recent attempts to trample the religious liberties of millions of Americans must be at the forefront of your debate. Religious liberty is at the heart of who we are as a people. Kansans are looking to us to continue to preserve and protect all of our cherished liberties.

Regards,

Jeff Colyer, M.D.
Lieutenant Governor

HOUSE JUDICIARY

DATE: 2/18/13

ATTACHMENT 10