

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

John Ceretto
Assemblyman 138th District



RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
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February 7, 2012

Dear <Congressman/woman>,

As a Catholic and a lawmaker I am deeply concerned by the new demands which the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will place on religious schools, hospitals and nonprofit groups. I fear that if religious exemption clauses are not expanded for employers we will be forcing religious institutions to carry out procedures and promote policies which run counter to their constitutionally protected beliefs.

I am therefore requesting that you support the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179/S. 1467). This measure will ensure that those who participate in the health-care system retain the right to provide, purchase or enroll in health care coverage that is consistent with their religious beliefs and moral convictions.

It is unjust to force New Yorkers to choose between violating their conscience or forgoing their health care. This will not only erode PPACA's mission to provide health care to all Americans, but goes against one of the founding principles of our nation, the freedom of religion.

Moreover, it is troubling to me that the Obama administration is using health care as a stalking horse to push a secular, anti-religious agenda into the homes, schools and hospitals of individuals who vehemently disagree with these policies based on their own beliefs and convictions.

While it is often the political right that is accused of trying to force their beliefs on others, this is clearly an attempt by radical political elements in our nation's health-regulatory bureaucracy to push their agenda at the expense of citizens and religious institutions.

Again, I implore you to support the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act in order to give employers and individuals the choice of a health-care plan that meets their medical needs without violating their moral convictions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John D. Ceretto".

John D. Ceretto
Member of the Assembly
138th District