



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

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**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
**Office for Civil Rights, Region IX**  
**90 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 4-100**  
**San Francisco, CA 94103**

December 16, 2014

Catherine W. Short, Esq.  
Life Legal Defense Foundation  
P.O. Box 2105  
Napa, CA 94558

Matthew Bowman, Esq.  
Casey Mattox, Esq.  
Alliance Defending Freedom  
801 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Transaction Number: 15-195665

Dear Ms. Short and Mr. Bowman:

On October 9, 2014 the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), received your complaint, filed on behalf of seven churches and a church-run school, against the California Department of Managed Health Care (CDMHC).

Specifically, your complaint alleges that on August 22, 2014, CDMHC issued letters to seven health insurance plans (Aetna, Anthem Blue Cross, Blue Shield of California, GEM Care, Health Net, Kaiser Permanente Healthcare, and United Health Care) directing them to amend their current plans to remove coverage exclusions and limitations regarding voluntary abortions. The complaint further alleges that the CDMHC action violates the Weldon Amendment.

After reviewing your letter, OCR has determined that our office has jurisdiction over your allegations regarding the Weldon Amendment, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, Pub. L. No. 113-76, Sec. 507(d), 128 Stat. 5 (January 17, 2014), pursuant to the HHS Regulation for the Enforcement of Federal Health Care Provider Conscience Protection Laws. Therefore, we have initiated an investigation and will contact you should we need any additional information. When we reach a determination regarding your complaint, we will advise you of our findings.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. In the event OCR receives such a request, we will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personal information which, if released, would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

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If you have any questions, please contact (415) 437-8310.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Leoz", followed by a horizontal flourish.

Michael Leoz  
Regional Manager