

CAMPUS NOTES

The Cardinal Newman Society (CNS) Blog

I Hold in My Hand the Names of 20 Catholic Colleges that Cover Contraception

In a scene reminiscent of anti-communist Congressman Joseph McCarthy holding in his hands a fraudulent list of names of communist spies in an effort to silence his political opposition, Rep. Elijah Cummings submitted a list of Catholic colleges in twenty states that already provide contraceptive coverage during a hearing on religious liberty yesterday.

In closing out his question and answer with The Catholic University of America President John Garvey, who said that Catholic colleges couldn't violate their conscience by providing contraceptive coverage, Rep. Cummings countered by submitting into the record his list.

After repeated calls to Cummings' office and the Committee of Government Oversight and Reform, The Cardinal Newman Society learned that Rep. Cummings obtained the list from the pro-abortion National Women's Law Center

The Cardinal Newman Society has obtained that list and looked into it to see whether it stood up to scrutiny.

It seems that many of the colleges on that list provide contraceptive coverage in states that mandate they do so. So, in short, the politicians in those states forced colleges to provide contraceptive coverage, and then the politicians on the federal level use the fact that they're providing it as evidence that it's okay for others to do the same.

It's worth noting as well that many of the colleges on the list provide coverage for certain drugs that have therapeutic purposes apart from their contraceptive effects and are covered only when medically necessary for these other purposes—for conditions such as ovarian cysts, endometriosis, and acne—like the Franciscan University of Steubenville, the University of Dallas and the University of Notre Dame, among others.

* Here's the list of Catholic colleges that reportedly provide contraceptive coverage, according to the NWLC:

Santa Clara University, The Jesuit School of Theology, the University of San Diego, and San Francisco University all reportedly provide contraceptive coverage to their employees as mandated by the state of California.

Sacred Heart University in Connecticut also provides contraceptive coverage to employees in the state of Connecticut which mandates it.

Georgetown University does so although they are under no legal obligation to do so.

Dominican University in Illinois and Loyola University of Chicago cover contraceptives as mandated by state law.

The University of Notre Dame is included on the list as providing for "oral contraceptives" by the NWLC but only for "existing pathologies" and not for birth control.

Loyola University of New Orleans provides contraceptive care and is under no state mandate to do so.

Loyola University in Maryland provides coverage for non-contraceptive uses of certain drugs that are frequently prescribed as contraceptives. Maryland mandates contraceptive coverage.

University of Detroit Mercy allows contraceptive coverage. Michigan mandates contraceptive coverage.

Saint John's University of New York covers vasectomies and tubal ligations but not oral contraceptives.

Franciscan University of Steubenville provides coverage for non-contraceptive uses of certain drugs that are frequently prescribed as contraceptives.

John Carroll University also provides coverage for non-contraceptive uses of certain drugs that are frequently prescribed as contraceptives.

Kings College and Scranton University of Pennsylvania provide coverage for non-contraceptive uses of certain drugs that are frequently prescribed as contraceptives.

University of Dallas also provides coverage for non-contraceptive uses of certain drugs that are frequently prescribed as contraceptives.

St. Edwards University in Texas provides contraceptive coverage. The NWLC was unable to ascertain any limitations on that coverage.

University of the Incarnate Word in Texas provides contraceptive coverage. They are under no state mandate to do so.

Saint Michael's College in Vermont provides contraceptive coverage as is required by state mandate.

Gonzaga University provides contraceptive coverage but only when "medically necessary." The state of Washington mandates insurance plans cover contraceptives.

Seattle University provides contraceptive coverage.

Marquette University and Viterbo University provide contraceptive coverage with few limitations. Wisconsin mandates coverage.

As you can see, while many of these Catholic colleges do provide coverage of some drugs that could be used for contraceptive purposes, many of them draw the line and exclude them for reasons of birth control. And some are mandated to provide coverage. Some, of course, like Georgetown, provide it of their own volition.

Other colleges like Fordham and DePaul also have acknowledged contraception coverage.

But should the actions of Georgetown and a few others act as a mandate to every other Catholic institution in the country? Of course not. Georgetown should not be allowed to become the federally appointed new magisterium of the Catholic Church — which of course acknowledges differences with the true Magisterium..

Dayton University announced just this week that they plan to continue offering contraceptive coverage.

"Our Catholic identity is at the heart of our institution's mission, but, in light of the importance of the health of our employees and the prevention of disease, we entered into these plans," said Teri Rizvi, UD's associate vice president for communications. "We are not changing our employee health care insurance coverage."

It seems some Catholic institutions have been given a lot of leeway by the bishops in recent decades. That leeway is now being used as a weapon against the bishops to curb religious liberty.

The President of The Cardinal Newman Society Patrick Reilly was quoted in an interview with Reuters talking about exactly this:

"This really highlights the elephant in the room," said Patrick J. Reilly, president of the Cardinal Newman Society, which works with colleges to strengthen their Catholic identities. "It is absolutely a wake up call."

That wake up call may begin what Reuters called a "crackdown" on wayward Catholic institutions. Bishop William Lori of Bridgeport acknowledged to reporters that, "I'm sure there's going to be some discussion about that."

But for Rep. Cummings to use that list as a cudgel to discredit the testimony of CUA President John Garvey is simply disingenuous.

Now, to be fair, the list must also make some Catholics wonder why this admirable fight for religious liberty didn't take place years ago, when states began mandating contraceptive coverage. Shouldn't many of these Catholic schools have battled against their state legislatures in the same way many colleges are battling the federal mandate now?

There's the analogy of the frog in boiling water, and it seems that Catholics are wading in some pretty hot water right now as they prepare a strong defense of religious liberty. Let's just hope it isn't too late.

This entry was written by [Matthew Archbold](#), posted on February 17, 2012 at 12:58 pm (2012-02-17T12:58:22-0400), filed under [Campus News Opinion](#), [Contraception](#), [Religious Liberty](#), [The Bishops](#), [Uncategorized](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#). Follow any comments here with the [RSS feed for this post](#). Both comments and trackbacks are currently closed.

10 Comments

1. Scott Stanton

Posted February 17, 2012 at 2:31 pm | [Permalink](#)

All of this lying is starting to get really old...

2. Rhoda Bruce

Posted February 18, 2012 at 1:40 pm | [Permalink](#)

Even if 20 Catholic universities do cover contraceptives, doesn't mean that all Catholic organizations should be FORCED to do so. It only means that 20 Catholic universities need to be disciplined by our church authorities for going against the catechism.

What may not be mentioned is that sometimes these contraceptives are not taken to prevent pregnancies, but as a medication to kill and prevent tumors. A Catholic doctor may refuse to prescribe a contraceptive, but the same MD may prescribe this same contraceptive to treat a known diagnosed problem. I would see nothing wrong with taking BCP's if its to keep you healthy and preserve your reproductive future.

What I'm trying to say, is that just because the university allows contraceptives, doesn't mean they are not following the church teachings. I think you'd have to look at each case. My daughter and also my best friend both take contraceptives to avoid tumors, which visit them if they are not taking BCP's. However, if I take them, I would be committing a sin.

3. [tony c.](#)

Posted February 18, 2012 at 6:40 pm | [Permalink](#)

I often think of my kid going to the local Catholic primary school next year and tell myself its a great community with great values so what's the problem.

Then I read a blog like this and remember that the Catholic church only understands liberty as its institutional expression. The liberty of its members or even of others outside it's fold from its instructions has never been understood by the church. A timely reminder that going to a Catholic school means potentially leaving behind the entitlements of wider society.

4. Patricia Walsh

Posted February 19, 2012 at 4:59 pm | [Permalink](#)

Bingo with "elephant in the room" observation.

5. Bob

Posted February 20, 2012 at 1:09 am | [Permalink](#)

On the subject of contraception, it is a generally overlooked or ignored fact that ALL chemical/hormonal contraceptives act as abortifacients if ovulation takes place in spite of the pill. The only forms of contraception that do not sometimes act as abortifacients are barriers (i.e. condoms and diaphragms) and spermicides. Therefore, the "pill" cannot be morally justified as a means of birth control and its use for that purpose is seriously wrong.

6. Joseph Haggarty

Posted February 21, 2012 at 1:25 pm | [Permalink](#)

You can add Boston College to the list of "Catholic" colleges which covers sterilization and contraception (i.e., for contraceptive purposes). I am an employee of BC, and my wife just called Harvard Pilgrim, which administers BC's health insurance--although BC is a self-insurer--to find out exactly what is the case. This is what the HP representative told her:

1)The Pill--covered under "pharmaceuticals." Requires co-pay.

2)Sterilization (tubal ligation & vasectomy)--covered under "family planning." Requires co-pay.

3)Intrauterine Device--covered under "family planning." Requires co-pay.

4) HOWEVER, the "Morning-After Pill" is NOT covered.

From a separate inquiry, I know that (surgical) abortion is NOT covered.