

## HR 6570

Respect for Rights of Conscience Act of 2010

**Congress:** 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Dec 22, 2010

**Current Status:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. (Dec 22, 2010)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/6570>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Fortenberry, Jeff [R-NE-1]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** NE • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred To	Dec 22, 2010

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Health

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

Respect for Rights of Conscience Act of 2010 - Amends the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) to permit a health plan to decline coverage of specific items and services that are contrary to the religious beliefs of the sponsor, issuer, or other entity offering the plan or the purchaser or beneficiary (in the case of individual coverage) without penalty. Declares that such plans are still considered to: (1) be providing the essential health benefits package or preventive health services, (2) be a qualified health plan, and (3) have fulfilled other requirements under PPACA.

Declares that nothing in PPACA shall be construed to authorize a health plan to require a provider to provide, participate in, or refer for a specific item or service contrary to the provider's religious beliefs or moral convictions. Prohibits a health plan from being considered to have failed to provide timely or other access to items or services or to fulfill any other requirement under PPACA because it has respected the rights of conscience of such a provider.

Prohibits an American Health Benefit Exchange or other official or entity acting in a governmental capacity in the course of implementing PPACA from discriminating against a health plan, plan sponsor, health care provider, or other person because of an unwillingness to provide coverage of, participate in, or refer for, specific items or services.

Creates a private cause of action for the protection of individual rights created under this Act. Authorizes any person or entity to assert a violation of this Act as a claim or defense in a judicial proceeding.

Designates the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to receive and investigate complaints of discrimination based on this Act.

Makes this Act effective as if it were included in PPACA.

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## **Actions Timeline**

- **Dec 22, 2010:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 22, 2010:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.