

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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1 Representatives Precourt and Stargel offered the following:
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3 **Amendment**

4 Remove lines 7-17 and insert:

5 WHEREAS, the health insurance mandate of the Patient
6 Protection and Affordable Care Act is a form of government
7 interference in the free market and an all-out assault on
8 personal liberties, and

9 WHEREAS, the mandate for individuals to purchase health
10 insurance exceeds the scope and authority of the United States
11 Congress, and

12 WHEREAS, as the United States economy continues to struggle
13 and the unemployment rate holds steadfast at alarming
14 percentages, the employer mandate to provide health insurance to
15 employees will raise the cost of hiring new employees and have
16 an adverse effect on the state of our economy, and

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Amendment No.

17 WHEREAS, regulations recently issued by the United States
18 Department of Health and Human Services, 77 Fed. Reg. 8,725
19 (Feb. 15, 2012), pursuant to authority in the Patient Protection
20 and Affordable Care Act require all health insurers to cover
21 certain services and products that violate the religious
22 freedoms of some health insurance consumers, and

23 WHEREAS, although the federal regulations exempt some
24 religious organizations, the regulations require all health
25 insurers, even those insuring religious organizations, to
26 provide coverage for services that are contrary to the religious
27 beliefs and practices of certain faiths, and

28 WHEREAS, the mandated services and products must be
29 provided without deductibles or copayments such that religious
30 employers, including hospitals, universities, and service
31 organizations, must pay the full cost of implementation of the
32 regulations that violate their religious freedoms, and

33 WHEREAS, these overreaching regulations constitute an
34 assault on the free exercise of religion and the rights of
35 individuals and organizations afforded under the First Amendment
36 to operate according to their consciences, and

37 WHEREAS, passage of the Respect for Rights of Conscience
38 Act of 2011 (H.R.1179/S.1467) would permit a health insurer to
39 offer coverage without the specific services and products which
40 are contrary to the religious beliefs of employers or individual
41 purchasers, without penalty, and

42 WHEREAS, passage of the Respect for Rights of Conscience
43 Act of 2011 (H.R.1179/S.1467) would be unnecessary if the
44 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is repealed, and
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45 WHEREAS, repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable
46 Care Act would eliminate the authority for the federal
47 regulations and restore the right to free exercise of religion,
48 which is currently under assault by those regulations, NOW,
49 THEREFORE,