

Students for a Fair Society

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Thursday, May 17, 2012

For Immediate Release:

Students for a Fair Society find the action of Franciscan University in rejecting student coverage both exciting and saddening. Exciting in that this is the first act of civil disobedience against the HHS Mandate aside from the many lawsuits initiated by Catholic schools, institutions, and persons against the President of the United States. Our American tradition is counter-cultural and revolutionary. As Thoreau wrote in the classic Civil Disobedience, "All men recognize the right of revolution; that is, the right to refuse allegiance to, and to resist, the government, when its tyranny or its inefficiency are great and unendurable." Franciscan University is entering into a world unbeknownst to the majority of Americans today, a world which is not full of silent complacency but rather loudly proclaiming its displeasure, "as a lion breathing fire" as St. John Chrysostom says.

Social Doctrine teaches the right of every man, woman, and child to basic healthcare. Many decried the approval the bishops gave to the Affordable Care Act, and many still blame the bishops for the predicament we are in now. Many say the bishops betrayed their Catholicism by supporting Obama's healthcare plan at its start and became a liberal machine, turning their backs on the Church, when the reality is much different. That being said, we find the University's action saddening because it will leave some 8% without coverage. Perhaps those 200 hundred students should come forward. How does it affect them? Does the HHS Mandate affect the faculty and staff? These are unresolved questions, and the decision to drop healthcare rather than self-insure or begin being insured by companies who will not pay for contraception seems imprudent and, to some extent, unjust.

Students for a Fair Society stand by the University in this matter, but as our specific dedication is to Catholic Social Doctrine, we also pray for the administration to have a change of mind and heart, so as to find another way to resolve this dilemma.

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Franciscan University of Steubenville