

Biola, Grace File Federal Suit Over Abortion Pill Mandate

In the ongoing backlash against **Obamacare**, two evangelical Christian colleges—Grace College and Seminary in Indiana and Biola University in California—have filed a federal lawsuit against the administration.

The lawsuit is the latest to challenge the Obama administration's unconstitutional mandate that faith-based employers provide insurance coverage for **abortion-inducing drugs** at no cost to employees regardless of religious or moral objections.

“Christian colleges should remain free to operate according to their deeply held beliefs. Punishing religious people and organizations for freely exercising their faith is an assault on our most fundamental American freedoms,” says Gregory S. Baylor, Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) senior counsel.

As Baylor sees it, the mandate leaves religious employers with no real choice: You must either comply and abandon your **religious freedom** and conscience, or resist and be taxed for your faith. He says every American should know that a government with the power to do this to anyone can do this—and worse—to everyone.

“The Obama administration's mandate forces us to act against our own doctrinal statement, which upholds the sanctity of human life,” says Biola University President Barry H. Corey. “It unjustly intrudes on our **religious liberty** as protected under the U.S. Constitution and makes a mockery of our attempts to live our lives according to our faith convictions, time-honored and long protected.”

The new lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, *Grace Schools v. Sebelius*, argues that the mandate violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act as well as the First and Fifth amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

“Government officials do not have the right to require religious organizations to act in a way contrary to deeply held religious beliefs, nor do they have the right to define what constitutes the free exercise of religion,” says Grace College and Seminary President Ronald E. Manahan. “To determine that Grace College and Seminary is not ‘religious enough’ to qualify for an exemption from this mandate is an affront to the **religious freedom** and free conscience of dedicated Christian organizations across America.”

ADF attorneys have already filed three other lawsuits against the mandate: one on behalf of Geneva College and The Seneca Hardwood Lumber Company in Pennsylvania, one on behalf of Louisiana College in Louisiana, and one on behalf of Hercules Industries in Colorado, in which a federal judge issued an order preventing the mandate from being enforced against the family-run business. The lawsuits represent a large cross-section of Protestants and Catholics who object to the mandate.