

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) today issued the following statement in support of Ave Maria University, which filed a federal suit today for relief from the Obama Administration’s new mandate requiring religious institutions – including Catholic schools, hospitals, and charities – to provide health plans that include free coverage of services that violate their core teachings:

“The President and his Administration have no authority under the Constitution to compel religious institutions to fund services that violate their core beliefs. This isn’t about contraception; it’s about religious institutions like Ave Maria having to sacrifice conscience to comply with Obamacare. I believe that this mandate is a clear violation of the free exercise clause of the first amendment of the Constitution, and I applaud Ave Maria for standing up to protect religious liberty.

“The President’s so-called ‘accommodation’ still forces Catholic schools, hospitals and charities to provide and fund health care plans that include free coverage of services that undermine their teachings. This attempt by President Obama to put his big government mandates above the Constitution is further evidence that his health care law must be repealed.”

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