



September 14, 2014

ACPA-College Students International
One Dupont Circle
NW Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Dr. Kent Porterfield, Dr. Cindi Love, and the ACPA Governing Board:

This summer, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Hobby Lobby, as a privately owned corporation, has the right to refuse to comply with federal regulations that mandate that health insurance offered to employees by employers covered by the Affordable Care Act make specified contraceptives available. The ripple effect of such a decision is still being measured, but we as the Standing Committee for Women in ACPA are asking ACPA to take a national stance on this significant policy issue facing colleges and universities in the nation today.

While the full implications of the decision are still unknown, the stage is ripe for dialogue and the court cases are still teasing out the intricacies of the ruling. Due to the continued controversy on the issue and the possible implications for U.S. private colleges and universities across the nation, it is our belief as the Standing Committee for Women that ACPA – College Student Educators International has a significant interest in the Hobby Lobby conversation. What federal regulations, and which private entities and employers are included in this ruling are all limits to the law that are yet to be drawn. Where the line falls on each of these issues could have a significant impact on the culture and governance of higher education institutions.

We are not asking for a definite stance, but we do want to formally invite ACPA into the conversation that directly pertains to many of its members.

While ACPA deliberates, we ask that we all keep the core values of ACPA in mind including the promotion of human dignity for all, the inclusivity and access in decision-making, and the free and open exchange of ideas. Finally, we ask that you fulfill the last ACPA core value of Outreach and Advocacy on issues of concern to students and our larger ACPA community by formulating a formal response to decisions surrounding Hobby Lobby. It is our belief that

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the Hobby Lobby decision begins a conversation that many of our constituents should and are having or may have in the future. We are asking ACPA to lead the field in dialogue. How can we as a community help, engage, or take a stand? Possible responses could be forming a task force on the issue, identifying it as an area of priority for research and conversation at ACPA's national convention, or sending a formal statement to our government signed by ACPA's governing body. We hope that you can help us continue to engage our values in our work and for our students.

ACPA represents thousands of professionals in Higher Education who are committed to the concepts of equal treatment for the individual and free expression of ideas. We and the entire community will be encouraged and inspired by your leadership. We hope to continue to live and learn within these convictions and hope this area is another way to do so. If we can be of assistance to you in your efforts to engage dialogue in this issue, we stand ready and willing to help as a Standing Committee.

Sincerely,

The Standing Committee for Women Directorate Board

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Erin Simpson, ACPA Standing Committee for Women Chair

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