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## **Supreme Court Delivers Momentous Religious Freedom Victory**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Family Policy Council of West Virginia (FPCWV) praises today's ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold religious liberty and protect the conscience rights of family businesses who object to being forced to pay for the coverage of sterilizations, contraception and drugs that have the potential to destroy an unborn child.

FPCWV President Allen Whitt learned of the ruling this morning and made the following comment: "We are so thankful that the Supreme Court agreed that the government went too far by mandating that family business owners should violate their consciences under a threat of crippling fines. The Supreme Court has delivered one of the most significant victories for religious freedom of our generation."

The HHS mandate gave family businesses two non-choices: either violate your deeply held moral beliefs and comply by paying for drugs and services to which you object, or pay fines of up to \$100 per day, per employee, for non-compliance. This mandate threatened the jobs, livelihood and healthcare of millions of Americans and would have forced those who stood up for their conscience, like Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood, to either comply or be punished.

Family Research Council President Tony Perkins also commented on the ruling, "All Americans can be thankful that the Court reaffirmed that freedom of conscience is a long-held American tradition and that the government cannot impose a law on American men and women that forces them to violate their beliefs in order to hold a job, own a business, or purchase health insurance....Thankfully, the threat the HHS mandate imposed on Americans has been deemed unlawful today as a violation of core religious freedom rights. While we celebrate this landmark decision, it is our hope that lower courts will follow the Supreme Court's lead and protect non-profits like Little Sisters of the Poor, Priests for Life, and Wheaton College from the unfair HHS Mandate," concluded Perkins.

### **About The Family Policy Council of West Virginia**

The Family Policy Council of West Virginia is The Mountain State's leading conservative policy group championing social issues. The group positively influences state laws, state lawmakers and state elections to defend the constitutional right of religious freedom for the state's families and churches.

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