

MEDIA RELEASE
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Minnesota Medical Supply Company and Entrepreneur Join Obamacare Challengers

Friday a Minnesota-based manufacturer of medical devices and a Minnesota entrepreneur joined the ever-growing list of challengers to the Obama administration's contraception mandate (the "Mandate"). The Mandate requires any business that offers its employees health insurance to provide coverage for contraception, sterilization and abortifacient drugs. The challengers told the court that providing such coverage is contrary to their sincerely-held Catholic beliefs and that forcing them to do so is a violation of their constitutional right to free exercise of religion.

Annex Medical, Inc., a Minnetonka-based company, is an original equipment manufacturer of specialty retrieval devices for use with small diameter endoscopes. Annex Medical's owner, Stuart Lind, does not believe his religious faith is something he must exhibit in the confines of his private home. Rather, he has publicly committed his company to "conducting business in a way that is pleasing to God and is faithful to Biblical principles and values." The Mandate will not allow him to do so. Rather, the government forces him to provide coverage that violates his religious beliefs. Rather than comply with the Mandate, Annex Medical has determined it must drop its health insurance plan, and will do so January 31, 2013 unless it receives relief from the court.

Tom Janas is a businessman and entrepreneur. Since 2004, he has owned and operated several successful companies in the dairy industry. Like Stuart Lind, Janas is a devout Catholic who believes complying with the Mandate is immoral and sinful. Earlier this year, Janas sold his company, Roffe Container, Inc., to a competitor after learning he would ultimately be forced to comply with the Mandate if he continued to offer health insurance to his employees. Janas now has plans to purchase another dairy business; however, the Mandate has stripped him of any choice to select a health insurance plan that excludes coverage for items he finds objectionable. He has there decided to forego such a purchase unless he receives relief from the court.

Represented by Erick Kaardal of the Minneapolis-based law firm of Mohrman & Kaardal, P.A., and attorneys from Indiana-based ActRight Legal Foundation, the Plaintiffs filed their complaint Friday in the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota. The Complaint alleges the Mandate violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Administrative Procedures Act.

Plaintiffs' case, *Annex Medical, Inc., et al., v. Sebelius et al.*, Case No. 0:12-cv-02804-DSD-SER, comes before the court on the heels of an order issued by a federal court in Michigan,

enjoining the government from enforcing the Mandate against two Michigan businesses. The injunction was the second issued against the federal government to date.

“This case follows the successful challenges of the HHS mandate by for profit businesses in other states,” said Kaardal, lead attorney for the Plaintiffs. “We are the first to file in Minnesota. We hope to have the Constitution applied to protect business owners’ religious liberties as elsewhere.”