



\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*

For Immediate Release  
June 30, 2014

CONTACT:

Deborah Hamilton, Hamilton Strategies, 215.815.7716, 610.584.1096, [DHamilton@HamiltonStrategies.com](mailto:DHamilton@HamiltonStrategies.com)

## Hobby Lobby Victory Impacts Health Care

### *Citizens' Council for Health Freedom Says Supreme Court Decision Restores Freedoms to Some, but More Work to Do*

**ST. PAUL, Minn.**—Hobby Lobby's U.S. Supreme Court victory this morning is a win for business owners of closely held corporations and shows the limitations of the controversial Obamacare individual mandate.

As a result of the 5-4 decision, Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., and other businesses, such as sole proprietorships, whose leaders disagree with certain forms of birth control will not be forced to pay for the questionable methods for their employees.

*Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF, [www.cchffreedom.org](http://www.cchffreedom.org))*, a Minnesota-based national organization dedicated to preserving patient-centered health care and protecting patient and privacy rights, says the decision is a step in the right direction for freedom in America.

*"Our government has worked to force everyone to do something politicians think is best regardless of conscientious beliefs," said CCHF co-founder and president Twila Brase. "Today's decision has given back freedom to a certain group when it comes to the contraception mandate. But Obamacare has essentially trampled over the freedoms of all Americans, including those who want to be free from government health care altogether. This is a wonderful decision to protect the freedom of religion that those in this case have worked so hard to defend.*

*"Today, one group of citizens has had a few limited rights reinstated," she continued, "but there are more freedoms that must be returned to all people. The right to be free from government health care should be provided to all. That will be the next step to fight for. And that, of course, will require repealing the law."*

Hobby Lobby is a large craft store chain owned by David Green and his family who are professing Christians. The Greens, who had no moral objection to providing 16 of the 20 FDA-approved contraceptives required under the HHS mandate and do so at no additional cost to employees under their self-insured health plan, took issue with four of the covered methods that were considered abortion-inducing drugs.

The timeline of the **\*\*[Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.](#)** case was a nearly two-year effort to protect the religious rights of Christian business owners. Beginning with the latest developments, the timeline was as follows:

- **March 2014:** Oral arguments are heard on whether the government has the power to force family business owners to act against their faith based solely on their companies' form of organization.
- **November 2013:** The Supreme Court agrees to hear the Hobby Lobby case.
- **Fall 2013:** The U.S. government appeals the ruling and takes the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. Hobby Lobby, even though it was the victor at this point, files a brief with the Supreme Court, agreeing with the federal government that the highest court in the land should hear its case as it raises important questions about the right to religious freedom.
- **June 2013:** The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit overturns the lower court's denial of the injunction and orders the federal government to halt enforcement of the federal mandate against Hobby Lobby. The Appeals Court remands the case back to the District Court in Oklahoma, which grants a preliminary injunction against the federal mandate in July, meaning that Hobby Lobby would not have to comply with the mandate because of the owners' religious convictions.
- **March 2013:** The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit grants Hobby Lobby a full court hearing of its case.
- **February 2013:** Nine U.S. Senators and two Representatives, along with the Oklahoma Attorney General and 11 other influential groups, file Friend-Of-The-Court Briefs supporting Hobby Lobby's legal challenge to the federal mandate.
- **December 2012:** That court also denies emergency relief.
- **November 2012:** The business appeals to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit for emergency relief from the federal mandate.
- **September 2012:** Hobby Lobby files suit in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma over the federal mandate to provide four specific potentially life-terminating drugs and devices. The request is denied.

**\*\*** formerly *Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc*

*Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year, **Citizens' Council for Health Freedom** is a patient-centered national health freedom organization based in St. Paul, Minn. **CCHF** exists to protect health care choices and patient privacy. **CCHF** sponsors the daily, 60-second radio feature, *Health Freedom Minute*, which airs on more than 150 stations nationwide on the American Family Radio Network and 90-plus stations on the Bott Radio Network. Listeners can learn more about the agenda behind proposed health care initiatives and steps they can take to protect their health care choices, rights and privacy.*

###

**For more information or to interview Twila Brase, president and co-founder of *Citizens' Council for Health Freedom*, contact Deborah Hamilton, Hamilton Strategies, 215.815.7716, 610.584.1096, [DHamilton@HamiltonStrategies.com](mailto:DHamilton@HamiltonStrategies.com).**