

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

An Unnecessary Culture War

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By The Editorial Board



Some good news in a contentious week: On Wednesday the Health and Human Services Department finalized new rules granting the Little Sisters of the Poor a broad religious exemption from the Obama Administration's contraceptive mandate. The Catholic religious order that serves the elderly went to court to protect its right to religious liberty after the Obama HHS imposed crushing fines for refusing to comply. The sisters finally triumphed in 2016 when the Supreme Court lifted the fines and kicked the issue back to the courts.

Hard to believe but some on the left, including the attorneys general for California and Washington are still in court trying to deprive the Little Sisters of their exemption. The new rule is a sensible accommodation that should end this unnecessary culture war.

HHS reckons no more than 200 employers will take advantage of the new exemption, affecting fewer than 0.1% of 165 million American women. The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which represented the Little Sisters, notes that there are many ways for the government to provide contraceptives without forcing nuns to violate their beliefs.

The Little Sisters of the Poor finally get their religious exemption