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October 3, 2022

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
Office for Civil Rights (OCR)
Office of the Secretary
Attention: Section 1557 NPRM
RIN 0945-AA11
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 509F
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Re: Comments on Notice of Proposed Rule on Nondiscrimination in Health
and Health Education Programs or Activities

The Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia (WBA) writes today in support of the adoption of the Biden-Harris Administration's draft rules implementing Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act. The WBA's mission is to maintain the honor and integrity of the profession, promote the administration of justice, advance and protect the interests of women lawyers, promote their mutual improvement, and encourage a spirit of friendship among our members.

In accordance with its mission, the WBA knows that women deserve access to the health care they need, free from discrimination, in order to advance their careers and achieve greater gender parity. Despite gains throughout the years, inequality and inequity persist, and the Biden-Harris Administration's draft rules will help to close the gap by honoring the constitutional rights of women. At a time of unprecedented attacks on reproductive rights, now more than ever, people seeking access to care need strong nondiscrimination protections.

The WBA applauds the Biden-Harris Administration for:

1. Making clear that discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of pregnancy or related conditions, including "pregnancy termination";
2. Updating the rule to reflect the Supreme Court's decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, in which the Court held that an employer who fires an individual because they are gay or transgender violates the ban on sex discrimination in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia
2800 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 210, Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 202-639-8880 Fax: 202-639-8889
Email: admin@wbadc.org Web: www.wbadc.org

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3. Extending protections, for the first time, to care received via telemedicine.

The draft rules will help people lead healthy lives, without fear of discrimination in how or where they seek care. This proposed rule is a critical step in protecting people who already face discrimination and systemic barriers to accessing health care which in turn will help women lawyers advance their careers and achieve greater gender parity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candace Beck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Candace Beck
President