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**CLS WELCOMES SUPREME COURT DECISION IN
CRITICAL RELIGIOUS LIBERTY CASE**

“For five years, federal bureaucrats unconscionably bullied religious charities with threats of steep fines -- hundreds of thousands of dollars – to force them to abandon their religious beliefs,” stated Kim Colby, Director of CLS’s Center for Law & Religious Freedom. “The Supreme Court’s order today puts a stop to the government’s outrageous threats that it will fine religious charities for remaining true to their religious beliefs.”

Christian Legal Society (CLS) is grateful for the U.S. Supreme Court's action today in the *Little Sisters of the Poor* case, *Zubik v. Burwell*, and six other related cases that requires the federal government to stop ignoring religious charities’ core beliefs. The religious charities had faced extreme fines for refusing to provide insurance coverage for drugs that violate their religious beliefs.

The Supreme Court vacated seven lower court decisions that had ruled against the religious charities. In so doing, the Supreme Court vindicated the religious charities’ claim that the government had substantially burdened their religious beliefs. In other words, the federal government cannot tell religious charities what their beliefs can be, as the government has been doing for the past five years. Furthermore, in the supplemental briefing that the Court ordered in April, the government finally acknowledged that it had less restrictive means for accomplishing its interest other than forcing the religious charities to abandon their core religious beliefs.

CLS’s *amicus brief* supported the religious charities. The brief urged the Court to protect all Americans' religious liberty by fully enforcing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). CLS actively participated in the overwhelmingly bipartisan effort to pass RFRA in 1993. RFRA passed the Senate 97-3, the House unanimously, and was signed into law by President Bill Clinton.