Notification of Change in Benefits due to passage of SB 1305 regarding abortion coverages

The Arizona State Legislature passed into law Senate Bill 1305 during their regular session in early 2010. This bill takes effect on July 29, 2010. It prohibits any Arizona state government entity or any political subdivision in Arizona from purchasing health benefits that include in their standard policy abortion services unless for either saving the life of the mother, or to save substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function of the mother. As a result of the passage of this bill, your summary plan document is amended to NOT include any prohibited procedures. This is being done to comply with the law, not as a decision of your employer. The applicable language in Arizona Revised Statutes, Section 35-196.02 (section B and C are the new language just enacted) is shown here:

35-196.02. Use of public funds or insurance for abortion

Prohibited; exception

- A. notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, no public funds nor tax monies of this state or any political subdivision of this state nor any federal funds passing through the state treasury or the treasury of any political subdivision of this state may be expended for payment to any person or entity for the performance of any abortion unless an abortion is necessary to save the life of the woman having the abortion.
- B. not withstanding any other law, public monies or tax monies of this state or any political subdivision of this state shall not be expended directly or indirectly to pay the costs, premiums or charges associated with a Health Insurance Policy, contract or Plan that provides coverage, benefits or services related to the performance of any abortion unless an abortion is necessary to either:
 - save the life of the woman having the abortion.
 - avert substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function of the woman having the abortion.
- C. this section does not prohibit the State from complying with the requirements of Federal Law in Title XIX and Title XXI of the Social Security Act.