From: Pat Dewitt

To: <u>E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA</u>

Subject: Religious refusal exceptions to women's preventive health care

Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2011 8:16:46 PM

I join with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in asking you to accept the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine as pertain to coverage of preventive care under the new health care law, and to reject any exemptions for "religious employers."

I work for a religious institution of higher education which just might want to refuse this coverage. But although I am religious, I would not agree with this. It would mean that the most extreme elements of the religious community would take control of the rest of us. They have no right to impose their beliefs on moderate, sensible religious persons.

These preventive services are a critical element of the new law and would provide countless women better access to necessary health care. I urge you to ensure women have access to quality preventive care by accepting IOM's recommendations and rejecting the proposed religious refusal exemption provisions.

Thank you for your attention.

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