

**From:** [suzanne\\_sen](#)  
**To:** [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Support Access to Preventive Care and Contraception!  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 10, 2011 9:54:03 PM

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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." These preventive services are a critical element of the new law and would provide women better access to health care.

While AAUW believes that "religious refusal" exemptions unjustly deny women access to contraceptive services, others, driven by an ideological distaste for all contraceptive services, are pushing the government to make exemptions even larger. Indeed, some groups are pushing for the exemption to apply to religiously-run health providers, so hospitals with religious affiliations would be exempt from the coverage requirement, even though they employ people of all faiths and ideologies. If granted, this larger exemption would deny access to thousands of women just because of where they work. A woman's access to health care should not be restricted because of the company she works for. She can not be expected to give up her job, for example, at hospital A which restricts her health care choices, in order to work somewhere else--in this day of slim job prospects, it might not be possible for her to find another position.

I urge you to ensure that women have access to quality preventive care by accepting IOM's recommendations and rejecting the proposed religious refusal exemption provisions.

Thank you!