

From: [Dawn Franklin](#)
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: preventative care and contraception
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2011 10:16:49 PM
Importance: High

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 countless women better access to necessary health care. This is a PERSONAL choice that no one else should have the power or authority to enforce against a woman. No one is forcing the person who doesn't approve of birth control; therefore, that person is free to make his/her own choice, so why is that right being withheld from an employee? And why should that woman's job and economic survival be at risk?

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.

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.

Sincerely,

Dawn Franklin