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Subject: Comment in support of HHS Secretary Sibelius's decision regarding preventions
Date: Saturday, August 13, 2011 9:58:14 AM

To HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and whomever it may concern,

I join with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and many other across the United States 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.

While the 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 such 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 who may not agree with their employers on such issues. If granted, this larger exemption presumptively would unjustly without due process deny access to preventive care for thousands of women just because of where they work.

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

Be well; do good work; and I look forward to your continuing to serve the best interests of America, American women in particular through your decisions in this case but also their families and America generally.

Regards and Shalom,

Thomas Rogers