

**From:** [Martha Gould](#)  
**To:** [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)  
**Subject:** access to preventive care for women  
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I never cease to be horrified that various religious and other groups try to impose their beliefs on others. 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 exemption for "religious employers."

AAUW believes that "religious refusal" exemptions unjustly deny women access to contraceptive services. Some, driven by an ideological distaste for all contraceptive services, are pushing government to make exemptions even larger. Religiously-run health providers would be exempt from coverage requirements, even though they employ people of all faiths and ideologies. Such larger exemptions would deny access to thousands of women just because of where they work. I ask that you ensure women have access to quality preventive care by accepting IOM's recommendations and reject the proposed religious refusal exemption.

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