

**From:** [Debbi Steele](#)  
**To:** [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)  
**Subject:** I support access to Preventative Care and Contraception  
**Date:** Thursday, August 18, 2011 6:16:48 PM

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Thank you so much for your recommendations to make preventative care/contraception free to all women. This is truly a huge step forward.

I am proud to be a member of AAUW which supports this measure. I am troubled to learn a possible religious refusal exemption. Religious refusal provisions allow the decision makers at "religious employers" to determine what sort of contraception, if any, their female employees will have access to. If the existing religious refusal exemption is expanded, it would create a broad definition for "religious employers," and could impact all employees at some schools, hospitals, charities, and elsewhere -- even if the employee does not share the faith of their employer.

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,

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