

From: [CK](#)
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: Support Access to Preventative Care
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2011 9:23:01 PM

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.

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. This is unfair, and counter to our basic American ideology.

I would like to point out as a government run program, the separation of Church and State should apply. I find it deeply disturbing that so much religion has crept into our government policies, and programs. I am a christian person but that doesn't stop me from being aware of our American history, or European history. This country was founded on the principle of separation of Church and State. Our founding fathers were keenly aware of what religious persecution could do. Persecution is what happens when one religion is given preference in the eyes of the government over another. The crusades come to mind as another terrible example.

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.

-C