

From: [Lorna](#)
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: Womens' Health care
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2011 11:08:08 PM
Importance: High

Dear Dept. of Health & Human Services:

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.

If you take a job as a pharmacist, then you need to do your job & fill whatever prescriptions are given to you to fill. If someone has a religious reason against filling a birth control medication, then they should NOT take a job as a pharmacist. The medications chosen by a doctor for the health of his/her patient is the decision of the doctor & the right of the patient to be able to receive his/her medication. If this discussion was about erectile dysfunction medication, then why is there NEVER any religious objection to this medication for men? There is a separation of Church & State written into the US Constitution so the American People will NOT be subjected to other people's religious beliefs regarding private matters. Another person does NOT have the RIGHT to put their religious belief upon a PRIVATE matter between a PATIENT & HIS/HER DOCTOR. THIS TYPE OF LEGISLATION GOES AGAINST THE BILL OF RIGHTS & THE US CONSTITUTION & MUST BE STOPPED.

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.

Frustratedly,
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