

From: gypsyshouse@yahoo.com
To: E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA
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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.

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.

As a female, who has long fought this battle, I hope you will do the right thing by ensuring all women have access to quality preventive care in this country and in others around the world. There is no rhyme nor reason to exempt any woman from exercising her right to choose when and if she wants a child. Please do the right thing.

Thank you,

Barbara E. Whitney

I'm not confused. I'm just well mixed." ~Robert Frost

"Disbelief in magic can force a poor soul into believing in government and business."
~Tom Robbins

The life lessons that you face are ones which you helped to plan when you created your life chart before you came to Earth. The way you handle each situation helps determine your advancement. You can always learn

I am not afraid, burdened or sad about the past. I will create joyful memories today and fill my spirit with happiness. My aura will reflect positive energy for all to see.

A challenge is an opportunity to grow spiritually. It will strengthen your soul and make you a better human being. Welcome this experience to let your spirit grow.

I do not desire anything because I am perfect as I am now. I am the perfect manifestation of God's divine plan for my life. I forgive all those who criticize me and praise them in return.

I do not define myself through what others think of me. I only define myself through my right actions. Shame and blame are an irrelevant game.

"My family, friends and pets mean everything to me. Dear Lord, I ask that you surround my loved ones in the white light of Your Holy Spirit. I ask protection for - Everyone."

Brightest of Blessings