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To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: No Exceptions to Women's Preventive Care and Contraception
Date: Thursday, August 11, 2011 12:22:29 PM

I join with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in asking you to accept the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine as they 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 all women have access to quality preventive care by accepting IOM's recommendations and rejecting the religiously charged proposed religious refusal exemption provisions.

These exemptions reward those promoting political and religious agendas at the expense of women's rights and reveals a shocking disregard for women's health. Accepting these exceptions undermines the original premise for the proposed recommendations and implicitly allows the argument that issues surrounding women's health are negotiable.

Please do not allow these exceptions. They are wrong medically. They are wrong morally. They are wrong.