

From: [Ruth Valdez](#)
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: proposed religious exemptions - public input
Date: Thursday, August 11, 2011 12:53:18 PM

I ask you to accept the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine regarding 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.

“Religious refusal” exemptions unjustly deny women access to contraceptive services to women just because of where they work. It is not reasonable to base a person's healthcare options on their employer's beliefs, rather than on their doctors professional opinion.

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.

Ruth Valdez