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To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: IOM contraception recommendations
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As a physician, woman, and public health professional, I encourage 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.

"Religious refusal" exemptions unjustly deny women access to contraceptive services. If granted, this larger exemption would deny access to thousands of women just because of where they work. I have many friends who work at Catholic-run hospitals or social service organizations; denying them equal coverage simply because of this employer would go against the spirit of IOM's suggestion.

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.