

From: [Caroline Luley](#)
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: Access to Preventive Care and Contraception
Date: Thursday, August 18, 2011 5:42:49 PM

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. A person should not have the right to control your right to health care just because they hired you. If they do not provide the insurance, what business is it of theirs?

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. And many of these women, like me, do not share these religious beliefs and should not be forced to live in accordance with them. We are not a theocracy.

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.

Thanks,
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