

**From:** [Marian Iris Moore](#)  
**To:** [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)  
**Subject:** Don't deny contraceptive coverage to any woman!  
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You have a very important decision to make now to protect health care for women of all the US. Some people want you to allow certain employers, rather than the women themselves or their care providers, to decide what constitutes preventive care, and what insurance should cover. Decisions about health care, like religion, are personal and employers of whatever religious stripe have got to let their employees follow their own consciences.

I've worked as a nurse and midwife for 40 years. Along with the happy and healthy, I've seen miserable, depressed women with unexpected, unwanted pregnancies who really couldn't afford \$40 or \$50 or more per month for contraceptives plus exams, the ones with insurance that didn't help with their most chronic health need when they didn't qualify for subsidized care.

Then Viagra came along and suddenly it was the most pressing need men had and Insurers leapt on the bandwagon to pay for it. Give me a break.

Preventive care keeps women healthy! Requiring insurers to cover preventive health care like contraception, breast feeding support and screening for domestic violence and HIV -- without charging co-pays -- makes these services affordable for more women. And it helps women stay healthy. The risks of pregnancy being greater than the risks of any method of birth control, we want women to be in the best possible health when they do undertake reproduction.

Employers should not be able to deny a woman this coverage. Medical experts agree that this preventive health care is necessary for all women and that contraception is preventive care. Religious employers should not be given the power to leave contraceptive coverage out of their insurance plans because it will exclude some women from getting the care they need to be healthy, have healthy pregnancies and have healthy babies. Let a woman make her own decision – she knows her body and beliefs better than her bosses do!

Please remove the proposed religious employer refusal provision from your Women's Preventive Services rule.

Thank you for your most careful consideration. Iris Moore CNM

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