PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Interim Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

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Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services under Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Amendment

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General Comment

I do not understand why some employers should be excused from providing women's preventive health care or limiting the medications available to women in their employ. Should the decision whether a woman wants to use birth control really be left to her employer?

Somehow this sounds very much like religious institutions forcing their values onto their female employees. If the women who work there indeed believe in the same values as the religious employer this prohibition should not be needed. If the women employed have different values or need birth control pills - or any other medication - for reasons other then preventing pregnancy should not the cost of that medication be covered like any other medication? And yes, even if woman want to be able to not worry about becoming pregnant during sexual intercourse, should the decision not lie with the individual women rather then with her employer?

If we allow this exemption, what else could be exempt for religious reasons? Would it, for example, we OK for an employer to choose not to pay for pain medication? The decision what medication any person takes should be between her and her health care professional, not with her employer, her insurance or any other person or agency.

Respectfully,

Patricia Kolb