

To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: Opposition to exemptions for "religious employers"
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2011 6:56:40 PM

To whom it may concern;

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.

I believe that "religious refusal" exemptions unjustly deny women access to contraceptive services. When I was younger, my aunt needed a hysterectomy. Her doctor refused to perform the operation because he believed it was a form of birth control. His personal beliefs almost allowed my aunt to bleed to death. Fortunately, a nurse stepped in, summoned another doctor, and my aunt's life was saved. In small towns across America, there may not be alternative sources of health care. I live in an urban community where I have many ways to access health care. Rural women do not.

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. My employer has no right to limit my access to care.

Sincerely,

C. Briner-Schmidt