



For Immediate Release
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Healthcare Advocate's Statement in Response to Supreme Court's Ruling to Allow Employers to Restrict Coverage to Preventive Contraceptive Services

Healthcare Advocate Victoria Veltri issued the following statement in response to today's United States Supreme Court ruling in the *Hobby Lobby* litigation:

"The ruling is a blow not just for women's health, but for public health. The Court effectively undermined the protections of the Affordable Care Act for women across the country whose only avenue to access to these critical services comes from their coverage via their closely held for-profit employers. The decision ultimately puts employers between women and their providers."

"The Court gives no weight to the Institute of Medicine's findings that the full range of FDA contraceptives should be covered because of the adverse consequences that would result from excluding coverage and the substantial burden on women in obtaining access to the services without coverage. The Court also fails to recognize the use of contraceptives for certain health conditions.

"The Court's decision essentially allows a closely held employer—as the Ginsburg dissent notes, some closely held corporations employ over 100,000 employees-- to deny coverage for the full range of contraceptive services to its entire workforce despite the substantial burden women in will now face as a result of this decision. The Court's only solution to the issue, 'let the government pay,' ignores the mechanism of health coverage for most individuals, employer sponsored coverage. The Court provides no meaningful remedy to women impacted by its decision.

"Just as importantly, the Court makes no claim that the decision would not extend in the future to all employers."

Justice Ginsburg's dissenting opinion gets it right: "The exemption sought by Hobby Lobby and Conestoga would override significant interests of the corporations' employees and covered dependents. It would deny legions of women who do not hold their employers' beliefs access to contraceptive coverage that the ACA would otherwise secure." *Burwell, Secretary Of Health And Human Services, Et Al. v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., Et Al.* 573 U.S. ____ (2014), Dissent at 8.

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