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## **Women's Health Advocates Condemn Supreme Court Decision Allowing Some Employers to Deny Birth Control Coverage to their Employees**

(WASHINGTON, DC) -- Statement by Jessica Arons, President and CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project, on the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the cases *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* and *Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp. v. Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services*:

"This decision is an outrage. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court ignored its own precedent and put the rights of corporations above the rights of working women and their families by ruling that for-profit employers can use religion to discriminate and deny birth control coverage to their employees.

"Employers should not be able to interfere with their employees' personal healthcare decisions by picking and choosing which services get covered. Health insurance is a benefit employees earn with their labor. Your boss can't tell you how to spend your salary and he shouldn't be able to tell you how to use your health insurance.

"Since implementation of the Affordable Care Act began, [over 45 million women](#) have accessed important preventive care, including contraception, without cost-sharing like deductibles and copays. A corporate CEO like the owner of Hobby Lobby may be able to afford extra out-of-pocket expenses for his family, but many of his workers, like cashiers, are already struggling to get by and don't make enough to supplement their healthcare costs. This decision jeopardizes the birth control coverage on which millions of women rely and has implications that could put coverage for other healthcare services in jeopardy.

"Religious liberty means having the freedom to exercise your faith *and* to be free from others imposing their faith on you. This latter principle is particularly important given that the plaintiffs objected to certain types of contraception based on their mistaken belief that those methods can cause abortion. The government should not have to accommodate an employer's redefinition of well-established medical categories, even when premised on sincerely held religious beliefs.

"Despite today's ruling, we will continue to fight to ensure that women have access to whatever method of birth control works best for them."

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**Jessica Arons, President & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project, and Elizabeth Dawes Gay, Senior Associate, are available for interview upon request.**