



Supreme Court Will Again Decide Whether Employers Can Deny Women Contraceptive Coverage

(Washington, D.C.) - The Supreme Court announced today it will hear arguments in all seven cases pending before it that challenge the birth control benefits granted by the Affordable Care Act. The law guarantees women coverage for all FDA-approved birth control methods without any out-of-pocket costs.

Religiously-affiliated non-profits that have a moral objection to birth control already receive an accommodation under the law, allowing them to opt out of covering contraception and requiring insurers to offer such coverage directly to their employees. In order to take advantage of the accommodation, a non-profit must notify its insurer or the government of its objection. The cases accepted for review today by the Supreme Court challenge this notification requirement, claiming that it burdens their religious liberty under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act by forcing them to be complicit in the use of birth control.

A ruling in favor of these challengers to the law could take away coverage for this critical benefit for millions of hardworking Americans, including the approximately two million students and employees who attend or work for universities that have a religious affiliation and the nearly 800,000 people who receive health benefits through Catholic hospital systems.

“The fact that these employers already have an accommodation and are now objecting to simply filling out a piece of paper shows this is not about protecting conscience so much as it is about advancing a political agenda to deny women access to affordable healthcare,” said Jessica Arons, President & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project (RHTP).

“Withholding coverage for medical services that women largely need is sex discrimination plain and simple. RHTP believes our laws should protect all people, regardless of where they work, and the rights of corporations and employers should not be put above women’s rights to basic and affordable healthcare.”

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