

Access to Birth Control Benefit for Many Women Remains in Limbo as Supreme Court Decision Sends Case Back to Lower Courts

Washington, DC - Today, the U.S. Supreme Court remanded the case of [*Zubik v. Burwell*](#) to the lower courts. The case was brought by a number of non-profit organizations with religious objections to providing insurance coverage of contraception to their employees, as required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA already allows for such organizations to opt-out of providing coverage by simply notifying the federal government or their insurer of their objection. Such organizations have claimed that the mere act of providing notification violates their rights under the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Eight out of the nine federal appeals courts which have heard this argument have rejected it.

Such thinly veiled attempts to deny contraception to as many women as possible is tantamount to sex discrimination. The Reproductive Health Technologies Project views today's decision as a missed opportunity to ensure contraceptive access for such employees once and for all, but remains confident that the lower courts will again stand on the side of women's health.

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Founded in 1982, the mission of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project is to advance the ability of every woman of any age to achieve full reproductive freedom with access to the safest, most effective, appropriate and acceptable technologies for ensuring her own health and controlling her fertility. To fulfill this mission, we seek to build consensus in support of an education, research and advocacy agenda for reproductive health and reproductive freedom. We seek consensus through a process of dialogue among diverse communities about technological developments and their global implications.

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