



*Michigan* Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

PO Box 739 ☐ East Lansing MI 48826 ☐ [www.mircrc.org](http://www.mircrc.org)

February 15, 2012

I write asking you to oppose HR 0185 of 2012.

Christian, Jewish and Muslim national organizations support President Obama's policy on contraceptive coverage and that services must be covered by most insurance policies without deductibles or co-pays, and that only purely sectarian organizations are exempt from this requirement.

These organizations affirmed "We stand with President Obama and Secretary Sebelius in their decision to reaffirm the importance of contraceptive services as essential preventive care for women under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and to assure access under the law to American women, regardless of religious affiliation. We respect individuals' moral agency to make decisions about their sexuality and reproductive health without governmental interference or legal restrictions. We do not believe that specific religious doctrine belongs in health care reform – as we value our nation's commitment to religion-state separation.

We believe that women and men have the right to decide whether or not to apply the principles of their faith to family planning decisions, and to do so they must have access to services. The Administration was correct in requiring institutions that do not have purely sectarian goals to offer comprehensive preventive health care. Our leaders have the responsibility to safeguard individual religious liberty and to help improve the health of women, their children, and families. Hospitals and universities across the religious spectrum have an obligation to assure that individuals' conscience and decisions are respected and that their students and employees have access to this basic health care service.

Furthermore, we the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice in Michigan, remind legislators that one person's individual religious liberty should not infringe on another's. One's religious liberty ends where another person's begins.

Sincerely,

Joy Whitten

Rabbi Amy Bigman

Pastor Robert Frederick