



YWCA USA Urges Respect for Women's Healthcare
Organization Serving Millions of Women Expresses Disappointment
with Playing Politics at Women's Expense

Statement by Gloria Lau, Chief Executive Officer, YWCA USA
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Washington, DC – As an organization dedicated to improving the lives of all women in our nation, the YWCA is saddened and disappointed by the recent polarization of women's health issues. One could look at the decision and reversal by a national organization to stop supporting breast cancer screenings at a partner organization in isolation. And, one could look at the criticism of the Obama Administration's decision to require all employers, including religious ones, to cover birth control for women in isolation. But the YWCA does not.

Right now some organizations, individuals and the media are focusing on breast cancer funding. Others are weighing in on the issue of birth control dispensation. The YWCA believes that there is a larger issue at hand - that all women, regardless of religion, race or socioeconomic status deserve access to healthcare, both preventative and unexpected. When women's healthcare becomes a political issue, women and their families get hurt. Often it is the most vulnerable women - women who are poor or women of color - who suffer the most.

For the sake of women and their families in communities across the U.S., we urge politicians, religious leaders and health organizations to treat women's healthcare with the respect and support it deserves.

About the YWCA: *The YWCA is the voice for every woman. For over a century, the YWCA has spoken out and taken action on behalf of women and girls. The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Over 2 million people participate each year in YWCA programs at more than 1,300 locations across the U.S. Worldwide, the YWCA serves more than 25 million women and girls in 125 countries.*

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