



YWCA USA Commends Obama Administration's Commitment to Ensuring That All Women Have Access to Affordable Healthcare and Birth Control *Solution Protects Religious Liberty, Helps Women at All Income Levels*

**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 commends the Obama Administration for reaffirming today their commitment to women's healthcare coverage, including access to birth control, regardless of where they are employed.

The new policy accommodates religious liberty by offering women who work for a charity, hospital or religious organization that selects not to provide contraceptive coverage, the right to obtain contraceptive care directly from her insurance company, free of charge.

The YWCA commends this policy as it will ensure that women have access to quality healthcare including preventive services regardless of her employer or income level. It acknowledges the reality that nearly 99% of all women have relied on contraception at some point in their lives but more than half of all women between the ages of 18 and 34 have struggled to afford it. This new federal policy will help lift the financial barriers that are often placed in front of women seeking the birth control coverage they need.

We appreciate that the Administration has so quickly worked out a solution that addresses concerns from faith-based institutions and women's groups over access to affordable birth control coverage for all women.

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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