

PRESS RELEASE

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Catholic University Students Support Birth Control Access

Catholic University Students for Choice join with coalition of students in support of birth control coverage without co-pays or deductible, oppose Bishop's backlash

Catholic University Students for Choice, a pro-choice group comprised of Catholic University of America students, are joining together with a coalition of women's health advocacy groups at the National Press Club today to speak out against the Catholic Bishop's opposition to the Obama administration's bold decision to require religiously affiliated institutions to comply with individuals' First Amendment right to religious freedom and protect women's reproductive rights.

"We are not here to ask the Catholic Bishops to support a woman's decision to use contraceptives," says CUSC President Callie Otto. "We are only asking the Catholic Bishops to let women make their own decisions in regard to their reproductive health."

Catholic Bishops have opposed Obama's decision to require Catholic universities and hospitals to include contraception in their health care policies simply because the church does not approve of contraception.

However, their reasoning ignores women's reality and has done little to sway those who believe women's access to such necessary health care should be available without barriers. Catholic Bishops have also continued to ignore the fact that 98% of Catholic women have used birth control at some point in their lives¹.

"Thousands of students at Catholic Universities across the country support the Obama administration's regulations regarding birth control coverage," Otto explained. "Religiously affiliated organizations have the obligation to do what is right by providing women with unfettered access to health care."

Catholic University Students for Choice will continue to take action until their voices are heard and the Catholic Bishops agree to adhere to the Obama administration's regulations.

The Catholic Bishop's misguided opposition represents the continuing war on women's rights. It is just another instance of men abusing their authority to strip women of their human right to make their own decisions about their bodies.

¹ National Survey of Family Growth/Centers for Disease Control, cited in R.K. Jones and J. Dreweke, "Countering Conventional Wisdom: New Evidence on Religion and Contraceptive Use," Guttmacher Institute, April 2011.