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H*yas for Choice Stand in Support of Contraceptive Access through Employee and Student-based Health Plans

*Catholic students unite to push back against attempts
to expand so-called "conscience clause"*

This morning, students from Catholic and secular colleges and universities across Washington, DC joined together in support of the Obama Administration's final rule on women's preventive services.

"Those working or studying at Georgetown should have the same right to contraception through their health insurance as those working or studying at George Washington University," says Tanisha Humphrey, Outreach Coordinator of H*yas for Choice. "If you have a religious conflict with birth control, you can chose not to use it."

The recently-announced final rule would mandate contraceptive coverage for religious affiliated-institutions as well as exempt churches from coverage. While the final student health plan rule has yet to be announced, it is the expectation of H*yas for Choice and others that contraception should be made available through student health plans, regardless of the religious affiliation of the university.

"I have heard horror stories of friends who are unable to use their student health insurance plans to access contraception and been forced to pay out-of-pocket for these expenses. When not covered by insurance, birth control can be as high as \$50 a month, an expense my fellow students and I simply cannot afford," says Tanisha.

"It angers me that Georgetown and the Catholic Bishops are trying to take this decision away from young women. They are violating our conscience."

Recent polling shows that 53% of Catholics, including 60% of Catholics who identify as independent, think that women employed by Catholic hospitals and universities should have the same rights to contraceptive coverage as other women. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of Millennials agree that employer health care coverage should include contraception at no cost.

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