



Advocacy Update

Sent November 7, 2012

Post-Election Webinar: TONIGHT at 8:30 PM

Join WRJ for a very special webinar briefing with Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), about the results of the U.S. election and the implications for us as women and as Reform Jews.

The results of the U.S. election will impact issues of concern for Jewish women and determine our priorities and social justice agenda for the next four years. From the U.S. relationship with Israel to basic justice for society's vulnerable populations to women's health and rights, the stakes for us and the people we care about are high.

Rabbi Saperstein will discuss how the newly elected Administration and Congress could affect issues of concern such as pay equity, reproductive rights, health care, the gender gap, and much, much more. His presentation will be followed by an opportunity to ask questions.

Coalition Against Religious Discrimination

WRJ has just signed on to a letter urging federal agencies to implement vital religious freedom protections set forth by President Obama. The author of the letter, the Coalition Against Religious Discrimination (CARD), is a broad and diverse group of leading religious, civil rights, labor, health, secular, and women's organizations. WRJ has long supported protections against religious discrimination and remains actively involved in all levels of reforming federal policy to better reflect our values.

Protect Contraception Access

Every woman is entitled to access contraception as a matter of basic rights and fundamental dignity. Jewish tradition believes that contraceptives are not only acceptable, but legitimate forms of health care and family planning. We also teach that health care is the most important communal service, and should be available to all.

In August 2011, as part of the Affordable Care Act, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius released regulations requiring insurance plans to cover birth control without co-pay. Reflecting and respecting the unique role and mission of religious institutions, the rule contained a religious exemption.

As the WRJ, we are strong supporters of religious liberty. At the same time, we are also strong supporters of women having the access and ability to make their own reproductive health decisions. Every woman, including women who work for entities covered by the exemption, is entitled to access contraception as a matter of basic rights and fundamental dignity. That's why the Reform Movement supports the compromise approach, which provides a way for women who work for organizations covered by the exemption to access birth control without a co-pay from a third party. There can be no discrimination in basic health services.

Tell your member of Congress that as a Reform Jew woman, you support all women's access to contraceptive coverage without co-pay.

For more information on WRJ and Social Justice, visit www.wrj.org/social-justice-home