



Advocacy Update

Sent August 7, 2013

Contraception Coverage Under the Affordable Care Act

Last week, health care and reproductive rights activists finally saw the fruit of months of labor: the rule regarding contraception coverage under the Affordable Care Act finally went into place. In its [final form](#), the rule reflects a commitment to religious liberty and [reproductive health](#) with its religious exemption and accommodation compromises. These are both priorities for WRJ and the Reform Movement. We commend the Administration's commitment to both of these core principles throughout the rulemaking process, and are excited that these important policies are now going into effect.

Access to birth control without co-payment will have significant effects for many Americans. Over [50% of women](#) ages 18-34 have struggled to afford birth control. The Administration's policy will amount to a total of \$18,000 that some women can save over a lifetime on birth control, and will allow women across the U.S. to access the medical services they need and deserve.

Despite the new rule, access to birth control is not always guaranteed. If you or someone you know encounter problems accessing birth control, [click here](#) to see if you have been a victim of illegal pharmacy refusal and to contact the National Women's Law Center. It is important to spread the word about this important resource to women through emails, newsletters and Sisterhood programs.

Anniversary of Aurora, Oak Creek Shootings

[On Monday, July 20th, our nation marked the first anniversary of the tragic shooting that left 12 people dead and 70 injured at a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado.](#) On Monday, August 5th, we marked the first anniversary of the shooting of the Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. Unfortunately, these are just two of the many mass shootings that shocked the American public this year.

The shootings in Aurora, CO, Newtown, CT, and Oak Creek, WI have served as a wakeup call. When moviegoers, school children and innocent individuals attempting to pray are gunned down without reason, it is our moral responsibility to seek to prevent future acts of such violence.

WRJ has been an active advocate on the issue of gun violence prevention. Earlier this year, our board released [a statement](#) calling for required background checks, the criminalization of gun trafficking and straw purchasing, and a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. As part of the coalition "Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence," we have signed on to letters to Congress letting elected officials know that we support legislation to help curb this horrific gun violence. Now it's your turn - [let your elected representatives know](#) that you support mandatory background checks and that this issue is not going away!

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