



# Advocacy Update

This morning, the [Supreme Court released its decision in Zubik v. Burwell](#), a consolidation of several cases that Women of Reform Judaism, along with the rest of the Reform Movement, was watching closely. The issue focuses on the accommodation for religious non-profits and contraceptive coverage for their employees. Read our blog for a [summary of the case](#) and a recap of its [oral argument day in March](#).

Today, the Supreme Court ruled to remand the consolidated case back to lower appellate courts for further proceedings, leaving key questions about the case unanswered. In other words, instead of deciding for or against the government and contraception accommodation, the Court ruled that there needs to be further briefings and information on these cases. They also noted that their per curiam, or unanimous, decision had nothing to do with their opinion on the cases' merits. This decision is disappointing as it leaves many legal questions regarding the Affordable Care Act, religious freedom, and reproductive rights unanswered, but we look forward to the questions presented in Zubik being answered decisively and in favor of the government and reproductive rights in the future.

Upon the decision, Rabbi Marla J. Feldman, Executive Director of WRJ, [released a statement](#) noting that, "We believe that a woman should have autonomy over her own health care decisions, including the ability to access contraception in line with her own faith tradition, rather than being limited by the religious beliefs of her employer."

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Director of the Religious Action Center also released a [statement which can be viewed here](#).

Our Reform Jewish values direct us to care deeply about both religious freedom and reproductive rights. We played a key role in passing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in the 1990s, and believe that the current ACA accommodation for religious non-profits wisely and delicately balances religious liberty with a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions. With today's decision, what remains hanging in the balance is the reproductive health and access to affordable contraception for countless numbers of women.

In March, WRJ and the Religious Action Center, in partnership with the National Women's Law Center, hosted a webinar on reproductive rights at the Supreme Court, which focused on Zubik and Whole Woman's Health, a case focused on state level abortion restrictions. If you were not able to join us and would like to learn more about both of these cases, [the recording can be found here](#). To learn more about WRJ's work on reproductive rights, [visit our webpage](#). For more information on the Supreme Court, visit the [RAC's judicial issues page](#).

[Read the Complete WRJ Statement](#)