

PACIFIC INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH



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**Statement by Belle Taylor-McGhee, President and CEO,
Pacific Institute for Women's Health, on Obama's Move Towards
Rescinding Dangerous HHS Rule**

Oakland/Los Angeles – The Obama administration has taken the first steps towards rescinding the dangerous “Provider Conscience Regulation” enacted at the eleventh hour by the Bush Administration. If maintained, this rule will allow employees to refuse vital and necessary healthcare services that they may find objectionable, including abortion, tubal ligation and even birth control.

Today, the White House issued a notice on their website www.reginfo.gov <<http://www.reginfo.gov/public/>> that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) submitted a proposed rule titled “Rescission of the Regulation Issued by the Department of Health and Human Services on December 19, 2008, Implementing the Church Amendments (42 U.S.C. 300a-7), Section 245 of the Public Health Service”.

Since the Bush Administration enacted the HHS rule on January 20, 2009, today's action is the first step in a process to rescind the current rule. The next steps will be for the Obama Administration to publish in the Federal Register a proposed rule rescinding the Bush Administration's rule. The Obama Administration will then accept and consider public comments on the proposed rescission.

“We congratulate President Obama for his efforts to repeal the dangerous and unnecessary regulations that put at risk the lives of so many women. At a time when economic hardship makes equitable health care difficult to attain, we need a President who is willing to put health and well-being first on his agenda,” said Belle Taylor-McGhee, President and CEO of the Pacific Institute for Women's Health.

The Pacific Institute for Women's Health (PIWH) and more than over 200,000 U.S. citizens, hundreds of federal and state elected officials, EEOC Commissioners, medical organizations, health care advocacy and women's health organizations have been active since 2008 opposing this rule. PIWH will continue to urge the Obama Administration to protect the rights of women to have unfettered access to safe reproductive healthcare.

For more information visit www.piwh.org.

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