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**Statement by Belle Taylor-McGhee, President and CEO, Pacific Institute for Women's Health, on legislation proposed by Senators Clinton and Murray to stop new HHS regulation that would undermine women's health.**

***"Senators Clinton and Murray Scold Bush over Harmful Regulations"***

Oakland/Los Angeles – The Pacific Institute for Women's Health (PIWH) today applauds the unwavering commitment of Senators Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Patty Murray (D-WA) to protect the health of women from sweeping Provider Conscience Regulations proposed at the eleventh hour by the Bush Administration.

This regulation is designed to provide further protections for federally-funded health care entities and health care employees who refuse to offer vital health care services they find objectionable, including abortion, tubal ligation and even contraception.

"Simply put, this administration has never placed the health of women and their families before neoconservative ideologies, said Belle Taylor-McGhee, PIWH President and CEO. "This regulation is yet another demonstration of what amounts to deceptive and harmful tactics to undercut reproductive health care services for all women, especially those most vulnerable."

Women who rely on federally-funded community health centers – who already have limited access to care – would have to deal with yet another barrier to health care access. "Placing more obstacles in the way of women making private medical decisions when they are already facing difficult realities – and hard economic times – is simply wrong and unfair," stated Taylor-McGhee.

Once again, Senators Clinton and Murray offered a necessary voice in Washington in protection of women across the U.S. PIWH will be working at the forefront to combat any assault on women's access to fair and equitable reproductive health care services, especially for women most in need.

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