



July 1, 2014

Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation (UUWF) Statement following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on the contraceptive mandate under the Affordable Care Act:

The Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation ( UUWF) joins the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in decrying the 5-4 decision in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that closely held companies cannot be required to pay for insurance coverage for contraceptives because it violates a federal law protecting religious freedom. The decision by a majority of the justices to extend religious liberty protections to the commercial profit-making world – however narrowly defined in this case – grants the ideologies of these companies a preferred status over the moral views of their female employees by denying them no cost contraceptive coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

Prior to the ruling, UUWF was party to the amicus brief filed by a broad spectrum of religious organizations in support of the government in the cases *Sebelius vs. Hobby Lobby* and *Sebelius vs. Conestoga Wood Specialties*. For more than 50 years, this associate organization of the UUA has affirmed and promoted reproductive justice; the right to have children, not have children, and to parent the children we have in safe and healthy environments, including access to contraception, regardless of economic status.

The mission of the UUWF is to advance justice for women and girls and support their spiritual growth through education and advocacy on their behalf.