



NEWS RELEASE

For further information, contact:

Yahairah Aristy, President, (619) 356-8726, ayahairah@gmail.com

Elaine Lawrence, Executive Director, (619) 595-0650, elaine@lawyersclubsandiego.com

United States Supreme Court Decision on Contraceptive Coverage Harms Women

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[SAN DIEGO] Today's U.S. Supreme Court decision allowing employers to deny health insurance coverage for birth control strikes a blow to women's equality because women's access to reproductive health care is vital to their ability to participate in the workforce. Lawyers Club of San Diego, which promotes the advancement of women in law and society, is gravely disappointed by the decision.

"Women's independence and equality is tied to our ability to manage our reproductive health – to decide whether and when we will have children." Lawyers Club president Yahairah Aristy said. "Today's decision delivered a devastating blow to women's reproductive justice. It perpetuates inequalities in women that will result in a significant negative impact in women's economic livelihood, careers, and family planning. The Affordable Care Act's contraceptive coverage mandate was a victory for women because it eliminated economic barriers to reproductive health care. The Court's decision strips away that coverage from hundreds of thousands of women. This is not acceptable."

In *Little Sisters of the Poor Saints Peter and Paul Home v. Pennsylvania*, the Supreme Court held that the government had the discretion to adopt rules allowing any employer to opt out of providing coverage for contraceptive care based on religious or moral reasons, despite the Affordable Care Act's requirement that employers provide women with preventive care and screenings without any cost-sharing requirements.

Lawyers Club of San Diego – which joined in an amicus brief challenging the government regulations – is disheartened by this decision, but is hopeful that the narrowness of the decision permits future administrations to abandon the current religious and moral exemptions in favor of more tailored regulations that had previously been in place.

"This decision makes clear that a future administration has discretion to adopt different regulations that restore the more complete contraceptive coverage that we believe the Affordable Care Act envisioned," Aristy said. "Lawyers Club will explore the most effective way to contribute to the effort to remedy the inequities of today's decision."

About Lawyers Club of San Diego: Lawyers Club, founded in 1972 with the mission "to advance the status of women in the law and society," has more than 1,100 members comprised of

female and male attorneys, judges, elected officials, business owners, law students and others in the San Diego community, who share Lawyers Club's mission and goals. For more information about Lawyers Club, visit www.lawyersclubsandiego.com.

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