



September 15, 2008

Office of Public Health and Science
Department of Health and Human Services
Attention: Brenda Destro
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 728E
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Ensuring that Department of Health and Human Services Funds
Do Not Support Coercive or Discriminatory Policies or Practices In
Violation of Federal Law

Docket ID: HHS-OS-2008-0011

Document ID: HHS-OS-2008-0011-0001

Document Title: Ensuring that Department of Health and Human
Services Funds do Not Support Coercive or Discriminatory Policies
or Practices In Violation of Federal Law

RIN: 0991-AB48

Electronic comments submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal
<http://www.regulations.gov>

The American Association of University Women in California has studied the proposed regulations and wishes to comment.

AAUW California supports state efforts to establish high quality standards and provide a consistent application of health care to all Californians. The proposed regulations raise issues of clarity and result in the following questions.

1. Do the proposed regulations concerning refusal rights come first in the law before patient rights to complete medical care?
2. Would these regulations permit wrongful death suits by families if a family member died because care was refused?
3. Would a Catholic hospital be permitted to fire an emergency room doctor who performed life saving surgery that resulted in ending an ectopic pregnancy and/or sterility?

In conclusion, the American Association of University Women in California has grave doubts about the consequences of implementation of the proposed regulations. We advocate for improved accessibility, affordability and high standards of healthcare. The proposed regulations would prevent establishment of high care standards applied consistently to all Californians.

Judy Pfeil, President
American Association of University Women in California