



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

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HAWAII OPPOSES ROLLBACK OF CONTRACEPTION COVERAGE MANDATE

HONOLULU - Attorney General Doug Chin today joined a coalition of 19 attorneys general in filing an amicus brief opposing the Trump Administration's decision to roll back a requirement under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for employers to include birth control coverage in their health insurance plans.

The amicus brief was filed today with the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. It supports Pennsylvania's lawsuit seeking to stop new federal regulations that would authorize virtually any employer with a religious or moral objection to contraception to block their employees – and their employees' dependents – from receiving health insurance coverage for contraceptive care and services.

Attorney General Chin said, "A woman's access to health care should not be dictated by her boss's religion."

Since the ACA was enacted in 2010, most employers who provide health insurance coverage to their employees have been required to include coverage for contraception, at no cost to the employee. As a result, more than 55 million women in the United States have access to birth control with no out-of-pocket costs.

In today's brief, the attorneys general argue that the new rule is unconstitutional by allowing the federal government to endorse certain religious beliefs over a woman's right to make choices about her own health care.

The attorneys general also argue that the rule discriminates against women and denies equal protection under the law by allowing employers to assert religious beliefs as a justification for denying critical benefits, while leaving coverage for men unchanged. Additionally, they argue that the Trump Administration is taking away the right to contraceptive coverage – a right that millions of women rely on – in violation of the ACA itself, and without any opportunity for public comment and without a careful review of the issue as required by federal law.

Led by Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey and joined by Hawaii Attorney General Chin, other states joining in today's amicus brief include California,

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Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and the District of Columbia.

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For more information, contact:
Joshua A. Wisch
Special Assistant to the Attorney General
Phone: (808) 586-1284
Email: Joshua.A.Wisch@hawaii.gov
Web: <http://ag.hawaii.gov>
Twitter: @ATGHlgov