

FACT SHEET:***Zubik v. Burwell* +****Asian American & Pacific Islander Women & Girls****What?**

Zubik v. Burwell is a consolidated United States Supreme Court case involving seven different lawsuits challenging whether religious nonprofits are able to deny their employees access to birth control under the Affordable Care Act.

Why does it matter?

The provision at issue in this case covers insurance provided to women and girls through religiously-affiliated organizations as well as religious colleges and universities. If employers are able to deny access to contraceptives under this case, this could set a precedent allowing employers to deny employees other types of healthcare or medical procedures as well, such as vaccinations or blood transfusions. A ruling in favor of the Plaintiffs can also lead to potential widespread harm beyond contraceptive coverage by allowing institutions to discriminate against women, LGBT people, and others on the bases of their religious beliefs. Religious freedom should not be used to shield employers from providing healthcare benefits to their employees. Contraceptive coverage is essential in promoting quality of life and women's economic security. All women deserve contraceptive coverage no matter where they work or attend school.

How does this impact AAPI women & girls?

The employers in this case have religious objections to providing contraceptive coverage for their employees based on their own views of sex and pregnancy. By arguing to forgo contraceptive coverage for their employees, the religious nonprofits in *Zubik* are asking to create additional barriers for women to gain access to their right to contraceptive coverage.

Over 8.5 million AAPI women and girls live in the United States. AAPI women are a diverse group with over 50 different ethnic identities consisting of many different religions. Religious freedom is a core value for AAPI communities. Religiously-affiliated employers should not be able to opt-out of complying with the law.

With cultural barriers and 32 percent of limited English proficiency in the AAPI community, a ruling in favor of the Plaintiffs can only make access to contraceptive coverage more difficult for AAPI women. Currently about 1.1 million AAPI women live under the poverty level and 1.3 million AAPIs are uninsured. Low-income AAPI women already face many barriers in accessing contraceptive coverage such as the current "5-year ban" preventing new immigrants from accessing Medicaid. This is coupled with a complete denial of low-income safety nets for the 650,000 undocumented AAPI women and girls in the United States. As the AAPI community grows, so does the poverty facing AAPI women. Creating more barriers to healthcare coverage will only hurt women and their families.

Sample Tweets

@NAPAWF

Of 8.25m #AAPI wmn & girls in U.S. 5.67m are foreign born. We immigrate 4 right 2 make decisions abt our #ReproHealth.

#AAPI hav 1 of highest rates of limited Eng proficiency in US; imposing burdensome barriers will make BC inaccessible

#AAPI wmn among least likely racial group 2 receive preventive repro health care services. We need more healthcare not less

Language & cultural barriers prevent many #AAPI fam from getting insur. coverage we need. We need more healthcare not less.