



The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

**Letter of support for Institute of Medicine recommendations contained in  
Clinical Preventive Services for Women: Closing the Gaps, July 19, 2011**

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

The Public Health Institute (PHI) strongly supports adding the new Institute of Medicine recommendations for women's preventive health services to the services all health insurers must fully cover under the Affordable Care Act. These recommendations fill in critical gaps in the list of preventive services prepared by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and mean a host of key preventive services will be more widely available for women. We believe these services are crucial to preventing disability and death in literally thousands and thousands of women.

PHI is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting health, well-being and quality of life for all people. Our programs have deep knowledge and understanding about the health of women and girls, particularly in reproductive health and breast cancer. Specific examples include 1) PHI's Center for Research on Adolescent Health and Development, which produces the highly regarded *No Time for Complacency* reports that regularly examine teen pregnancy rates; 2) the Coalition Advancing Multipurpose Innovations (CAMI), which supports the development of contraceptives that protect women against both pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections; and 3) the Child Health and Development Studies initiative, which is conducting the first womb to breast cancer study over three generations of girls and women.

Our knowledge and experience from these programs and others has helped to shape our conviction that health is a fundamental human right and that just societies ensure equitable health outcomes for everyone. For this reason, we believe that new Institute of Medicine recommendations for women's preventive health services are important, and urge the Administration to support these recommendations and take action to ensure their adoption.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary A. Pittman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary A. Pittman, DrPH  
President and CEO