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### **NFPRHA Deeply Disappointed by Supreme Court Decision to Undermine Contraceptive Access**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA) issued the following statement in response to the US Supreme Court’s disappointing decision in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* and *Conestoga Wood Specialties v. Burwell*, attributed to NFPRHA’s President & CEO, Clare Coleman:

“Today, the Supreme Court created a new right for some corporations, putting the interests of those companies ahead of women’s liberty and health and undermining individuals’ rights to make health care decisions according to their own needs and beliefs.

“The need for family planning services and supplies without cost barriers is undeniable. The Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) contraceptive coverage requirement was an historic achievement with immediate real-world results -- millions of women were able to choose the best contraceptive method for them without cost barriers. Today’s decision allows closely held employers to deny the contraceptive coverage that their employees had been entitled to by law.

“Hobby Lobby had argued that the federal government can achieve its contraceptive access goals through programs like Title X, the nation’s family planning program. Today, the Court made a similar assertion – suggesting that the government could simply ‘assume the cost’ of providing contraception for employees whose access to preventive health care will now be at the whim of their employer. But that is absurd. Over the last few years, Congress has made repeated attempts to repeal the ACA and defund safety-net programs like Title X. Furthermore, as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg notes in her dissent, “Safety net programs like Title X are not designed to absorb the unmet needs of . . . insured individuals.” There’s little chance that Congress will now step up to ensure that women whose contraceptive care has been restricted can regain access with no financial barriers.

Research shows that any cost-sharing reduces the likelihood that people will access preventive care like contraception, so insurance coverage with no cost-sharing is essential to expanding correct and consistent use of contraception. And federal funding for the Title X program is far from “whole.” As a result of politically motivated attacks, the program endured \$39 million in cuts between fiscal year (FY) 2010 and FY 2013— forcing staff layoffs, reduced hours, and health center closures, and resulting in more than 440,000 people losing access to preventive health care.

“I urge Congress to counteract the Court’s damaging decision today, and to increase Title X funding while they are at it. That’s the best way to support millions of families that need access to no-cost or low-cost contraceptive services to make responsible decisions for their own health and well-being.”

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*NFPRHA represents the broad spectrum of family planning administrators and clinicians serving the nation's low-income and uninsured. NFPRHA's more than 600 member organizations operate or fund a network of nearly 5,000 health centers and service sites that provide comprehensive family planning services to millions of low-income and uninsured or underinsured individuals in 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam.*

**Helping people act responsibly, stay healthy and plan for strong families**

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