



# Missouri Family Health Council, Inc.

*Building Healthy Foundations for Missouri Families*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 7/1/2014

Contact: Suzy Day | 573-636-4060 x303 | [sday@mfhc.org](mailto:sday@mfhc.org)

## **MFHC Anticipates Reduction in Family Planning Progress**

The Missouri Family Health Council, Inc. issued the following statement in response to the [US Supreme Court's decision](#) in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* and *Conestoga Wood Specialties v. Burwell*, attributed to MFHC's Executive Director, Connie J. Cunningham:

"Yesterday five of the Supreme Court Justices set Missourians back years. By ruling in favor of Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. and Conestoga Wood Specialties, the Court has decided that business owners' interests hold more weight than the beliefs and private decisions made by employees, their families and their healthcare providers. While employees of these companies, and those companies that will no doubt come forward following this decision, pay their entire insurance premiums, they will only have access to a fraction of their contraceptive options. MFHC is extremely disappointed and knows that this decision will have a negative impact on any progress made in family planning and teen pregnancy prevention made in the past few decades."

The four forms of contraception deemed permissible to be exempt from coverage are often the most effective forms of preventing unplanned pregnancies, as well as most cost efficient overtime. However, FDA-approved forms, such as Mirena and other long-acting reversible contraceptives, are additionally the most expensive to purchase out of pocket, and therefore by removing from insurance plans the Supreme Court has simply removed these options from the table for many Missourians.

The Court argues that the government could possibly pick up the cost of this loss in coverage, however Missouri has seen a freeze in healthcare funding statewide and federally. Missouri's safety-net program, Title X Family Planning, will continue to provide high quality family planning services to the under-insured in Missouri to the best of its ability, but fears that due to volume, needs will outweigh capacity. Additionally, 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."

### **About MFHC, Inc.**

Missouri Family Health Council's mission is to support access to quality reproductive health care services through funding, education, monitoring and advocacy. MFHC supports 19 agencies and 80 clinic sites throughout Missouri, covering 97% of counties.

### **Questions?**

**Missouri Family Health Council, Inc.**

**1909 Southridge Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65110**

**573-636-4060 | [WWW.MFHC.ORG](http://WWW.MFHC.ORG)**