



The National Women's Law Center is at the forefront of a grassroots effort to protect contraceptive coverage in North Carolina—helping people who are being denied contraceptive coverage from their employer, in direct violation of state law, by providing the strategies and assistance necessary for them to fight these unlawful restrictions on their access to reproductive health services.

Belmont Abbey College, located just outside of Charlotte, North Carolina, decided to eliminate contraceptive coverage from its employee benefit plan, claiming that the college qualifies as a “religious employer” and therefore is permitted to receive an exemption from the state’s contraceptive coverage law—even though it receives state aid as a secular institution. The Center, contacted by faculty members for help, contacted the college, setting out why it was obligated to provide this coverage. In response, Belmont Abbey asserted that it will shut down the entire school before reinstating contraceptive coverage for its employees. The Center then filed a complaint with the North Carolina Department of Insurance regarding the college’s unlawful actions, and the state’s Insurance Commissioner is currently investigating the Center’s claims on behalf of the faculty.

The Center has emerged as a go-to resource regarding the faculty members’ fight for contraceptive coverage—providing information and statements for stories in [various North Carolina news outlets](#), the [Catholic press](#), and [campus newspapers](#) across the country. This widespread attention could result in the case ultimately having ramifications for educational institutions nationwide, and the Center is working diligently to ensure that Belmont Abbey faculty have all of the information and analysis that they need to successfully advocate for their right to contraceptive coverage.