

House Joint Memorial 19

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges United States Department of Health and Human Services to include all federal Food and Drug Administration approved prescription contraceptive drugs and devices to prevent pregnancy on list of women's preventive health care services.

JOINT MEMORIAL

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2 To the President of the United States, the United States Department of Health and Human Services
3 and the United States Food and Drug Administration:

4 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legis-
5 lative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas federal law requires new health insurance plans to cover women's preventive health
7 care services with no co-payments charged to their members; and

8 Whereas at the direction of Congress the United States Department of Health and Human Ser-
9 vices will promulgate rules this year to establish the specific preventive benefits that will be cov-
10 ered under this requirement; and

11 Whereas this requirement was meant to encourage and invest in basic health care services in
12 order to improve healthy outcomes for all Americans; and

13 Whereas prescription birth control is basic medical care used by over 90% of women sometime
14 during their lives; and

15 Whereas when women plan their pregnancies, they are more likely to seek prenatal care, im-
16 proving their own health and the health of their children; and

17 Whereas publicly funded birth control services and supplies prevent nearly two million unin-
18 tended pregnancies each year nationally; and

19 Whereas access to prescription birth control is directly linked to better long-term health for
20 both women and infants; and

21 Whereas since the U.S. lags behind 41 other countries in the world for maternal mortality rates
22 and behind 29 other countries in the world for infant mortality rates, Oregon women and children
23 are at higher risk of preventable death; and

24 Whereas in addition to the primary purpose of allowing women to plan and prepare for preg-
25 nancy, prescription birth control has other health benefits, including reduced risk of endometrial and
26 ovarian cancers, ectopic pregnancy, iron deficiency anemia related to heavy menstruation,
27 osteoporosis, ovarian cysts and pelvic inflammatory disease; and

28 Whereas nearly three-fourths of American voters believe that prescription birth control should
29 be covered by health insurance plans without any out-of-pocket costs; and

30 Whereas for every dollar invested in birth control, \$3.74 is saved in Medicaid expenditures for
31 pregnancy-related care; and

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Whereas research shows that more than one-third of women in America have struggled with the
2 cost of prescription birth control at some point in their lives and, as a result, have used birth con-
3 trol inconsistently; and

4 Whereas leading health care providers and medical associations support improved access to
5 birth control, including the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians
6 and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Society for Adolescent Medi-
7 cine, the American Public Health Association and the March of Dimes; now, therefore,

8 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

9 We, the members of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly, strongly urge the United States
10 Department of Health and Human Services to include all federal Food and Drug Administration
11 approved prescription contraceptive drugs and devices to prevent pregnancy on the list of women's
12 preventive health care services that are exempt from cost-sharing in health insurance plans.

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