

Enrolled
Senate Resolution 1

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES AND RURAL HEALTH POLICY

Whereas federal law requires new health insurance plans to cover women's preventive health care services without charging copayments to their members; and

Whereas at the direction of Congress the United States Department of Health and Human Services will promulgate rules this year to establish what specific preventive benefits will be covered under this requirement; and

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

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

Whereas when women plan their pregnancies, they are more likely to seek prenatal care, improving their own health and the health of their children; and

Whereas publicly funded birth control services and supplies prevent nearly two million unintended pregnancies each year nationally; and

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

Whereas since the United States lags behind 41 other countries in the world for maternal mortality rate and behind 29 other countries in the world for infant mortality rate, Oregon women and children are at higher risk of preventable death; and

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

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

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

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

Whereas improved access to birth control is supported by leading health care providers and medical associations, including the American Medical Association, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, the American Public Health Association and the March of Dimes; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Senate of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly, strongly urge the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to include all prescription contraceptive drugs and devices to prevent pregnancy that are approved for use by the United States Food and Drug Administration on the list of women's preventive health care services that are exempt from cost-sharing in health insurance plans.

Adopted by Senate March 17, 2011

Robert Taylor, Secretary of Senate

Peter Courtney, President of Senate