

# Senate Resolution 1

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

## 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 Secretary of Health and Human Services to designate as preventive services all contraceptive drugs and devices approved for use by United States Food and Drug Administration to exempt drugs and devices from cost-sharing requirements imposed by insurers.

## SENATE RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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