

## ***Birth Control***

### ***Why is this an issue?***

- Starting August 1, 2012, certain women's preventive health care services, including birth control, became available without a co-pay to insured women. Once fully enacted, this coverage will benefit millions of women across the country.
- Yet this didn't happen without controversy. Despite an "accommodation" exempting religiously-affiliated employers from directly covering contraception, there were attempts to overturn this requirement.
- One proposal, voted on by the Senate, would have allowed employers and insurance companies to deny coverage for ANY essential health service that they object to on the basis of personal religious belief or moral convictions.

### ***Why should I care?***

- Birth control is a vital part of women's preventive health care. Access without co-pay or cost-sharing will help women control, track, and better manage their life-long health. The lack of comprehensive support for reproductive health has resulted in dire outcomes for American women, with half of all pregnancies in the United States unintended.
- The vast majority of American women use birth control or some other form of contraception. Yet the cost remains a burden for many American women, preventing them from enjoying the health benefits of these services.
- Politicians should not insert themselves into the reproductive health care decision-making process, which is a basic element of women's overall health. Every woman has the ability to make her own informed choices regarding her reproductive life within the dictates of her own moral and religious beliefs, and without governmental interference.

### ***Additional Resources***

- *Preventive Services for Women*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.  
[www.healthcare.gov/law/resources/regulations/womensprevention.html](http://www.healthcare.gov/law/resources/regulations/womensprevention.html)
- *Facts on Contraceptive Use in the United States*, Guttmacher Institute.  
[www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb\\_contr\\_use.html](http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_contr_use.html)