

# The Illinois Contraceptive Coverage Act (H.B. 5576)

Representative Elaine Nekritz • Senator Toi Hutchinson

## Women are being denied the promise of the Affordable Care Act.

Illinois has the opportunity to clarify the law to improve access to the full range of contraceptive options for all people with health insurance.

### The Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act:

- ✓ **Guarantees coverage without cost sharing for all FDA approved contraceptive drugs, devices, and supplies, including voluntary sterilization.**
- ✓ **Allows insurance companies to limit coverage only when two or more products have the same active ingredients and safety profile.** This ensures access for women while allowing insurance companies to manage costs.
- ✓ **Prohibits the use of so called “reasonable medical management” techniques** which can delay or even prevent access to the most effective birth control options
- ✓ **Requires an accessible and timely waiver process to access birth control methods not covered by a plan**, which ensures health plans respect the decisions made between health care providers and their patients (this process is already required by the ACA)
- ✓ **Requires insurance companies to cover birth control prescriptions for up to 12 months at one time**, which has been shown to decrease costs for health insurance companies and decrease rates of unintended pregnancy

- ✗ HB5576 **does not** force religious organizations, religiously affiliated nonprofits, or closely held corporations to cover birth control. These employers maintain the right to request an exemption from the requirement to cover birth control under the ACA and the Supreme Court's decision in the Hobby Lobby case.
- ✗ HB5576 **does not** change the requirement for health insurance to cover emergency contraception. The ACA already requires that insurance companies provide this coverage for women when they have a doctor's prescription.

**Building on state and federal law, H.B. 5576 has the potential to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and improve birth outcomes by guaranteeing reliable, affordable access to birth control for all people in Illinois.**

### If you have questions or would like to sign on in support of this bill, please contact:

Mary Dixon, ACLU of Illinois: [mdixon@aclu-il.org](mailto:mdixon@aclu-il.org); 815-483-1990

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## **The following organizations support H.B. 5576:**

Illinois Department of Public Health  
Illinois Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)  
Illinois State Medical Society  
Illinois Pharmacists Association  
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians  
Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing  
Illinois Primary Health Care Association  
Illinois Public Health Association  
Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators  
Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium  
Cook County Department of Public Health  
Lake County Department of Public Health  
National Association of Social Workers—Illinois Chapter  
Ounce of Prevention Fund  
March of Dimes Illinois Chapter  
ACLU of Illinois  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
American Association of University Women  
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless  
Chicago Foundation for Women  
Citizen Action Illinois  
EverThrive Illinois  
Health and Medicine Policy Research Group  
Illinois Choice Action Team (ICAT)  
Illinois National Organization for Women (NOW)  
League of Women Voters of Illinois  
McHenry County Citizens for Choice  
Men4Choice  
Mujeres Latinas en Accion  
National Coalition of American Nuns  
National Council of Jewish Women, Illinois State Policy Advisory Network  
National Council of Jewish Women, Chicago North Shore Section  
Personal PAC  
Planned Parenthood of Illinois  
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law  
The Section of Family Planning at the University of Chicago  
Women Employed

## **The following state agencies are neutral on this bill:**

Illinois Department of Insurance  
Illinois Central Management Services (state employee health plan)