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; 815-483-1990
Kathy Waligora, EverThrive Illinois: kwaligora@everthriveil.org; 262-308-5735
Brigid Leahy, Planned Parenthood of Illinois: brigidl@ppil.org; 217-553-8967
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 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
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)