

Birth Control Access Campaign

Restore Affordable Birth Control!

The price of birth control at campus health centers and many clinics serving low-income women has increased dramatically. At many campuses nationwide, it has doubled, tripled, or even increased five-fold. A campus health center survey was conducted by the Feminist Majority Foundation during the summer of 2007. We found that some campus health centers are discontinuing even providing contraceptives because of price increases.

Why am I paying more?

For almost 20 years, Medicaid pricing rules allowed pharmaceutical companies to provide college health centers and clinics serving low-income women with birth control at a substantial discount.

As a result, young women and low income women across the country have had access to affordable birth control.

But in 2005, Congress and the Bush Administration changed the rules for all campus health centers and approximately 400 clinics servicing low-income women. The new regulations went into effect January 1, 2007. The result: a dramatic increase in the price of birth control for many women.

Impact on Young Women

Millions of women depend on oral contraceptives for birth control and/or serious health conditions such as endometriosis and ovarian cysts. The number one reason that students go to campus health centers is for contraceptives.

Women who cannot afford these new higher prices may be forced to either use less-effective methods of birth control or to stop using birth control altogether. As a result, college women are facing an increased risk of unplanned pregnancy and serious health risks. Decreasing access to affordable birth control programs has already resulted in the unplanned pregnancy rate of poor women going up 29% over the last ten years.

What can be done?

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has refused to restore the exemption for campus health centers. So, it is now up to Congress to fix the problem. It's an easy fix, but the fight will be tough. To win, we must ensure that members of Congress hear from you and women affected by these outrageous price increases!

The Feminist Majority Foundation has responded to this need for action with our Birth Control Access Campaign. Bring the campaign to your campus and join the nationwide coalition. Demand the restoration of affordable pricing for birth control at college health centers and clinics serving low-income women.

Petition for safe access to birth control!

<http://www.feministcampus.org/act/birthcontrol>

Table at lunchtime

Dorm Storm for signatures

Partner with your Student Health Center

Send or fax petitions:

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