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Federal Birth Control Pricing Fix Needed Now
Affordable birth control key for college women's health

Madison, WI – As college women in Wisconsin face drastic birth control price increases at university health centers, the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health urges Congressional leaders to act and fix the undue problem now.

For the last twenty years or so, college health clinics were able to buy birth control at nominal prices, and pass those savings onto college women. Because of a complicated change in the 2006 Deficit Reduction Act (DRA), college health clinics are now forced to buy birth control at market prices resulting in skyrocketing prices for students, a jump from \$5-\$10 to \$40- \$50. As a result, affordable birth control is now out of reach for many young women, increasing the likelihood they'll face unintended pregnancies before graduation.

"College is tough enough to get through academically and financially without the added burden of an unintended pregnancy," stated WAWH Director Sara Finger. "College students and low-income women should not be priced out of family planning which for many is the key to self-sufficiency and success."

Health professionals say it's particularly critical for college women to have access to affordable contraception. According to the American College Health Association, thirty-nine percent or approximately three million American college women are using birth control pills.

To address the problem caused by the DRA, Congress now has the opportunity to remedy the situation. The Prevention Through Affordable Access Act will bring down the rising cost of birth control to college health clinics and safety-net providers.

"If we're serious about giving students in our universities a chance to finish their degrees and become productive members of our economy, then we ought to help them avoid unintended pregnancies," stated Finger. "A legislative fix won't cost taxpayers a single dime and would restore access to affordable and crucial health care for young women in Wisconsin."

To learn more about the Birth Control Price Increases on College Campuses, visit :www.supportwomenshealth.org.

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*mission of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH) is to advance women's health by creating an environment in which the public and elected officials confidently support women's health policy.
To learn more about WAWH, visit our website: www.supportwomenshealth.org*