



## Facts about the Republican Record on Contraceptive Health

*Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), insurance companies now cover certain preventive services, including birth control, at no out-of-pocket cost to consumers. As a result, women across the country saved \$483 million on oral contraceptive prescriptions last year. Republicans who say they want to make the pill available over the counter are the same politicians seeking to repeal the ACA's birth control benefit, thus forcing women to again have to pay for contraceptives out of pocket. While a conversation about how women access contraception is worthwhile, it is not a substitute for taking away a benefit that has already helped millions of women.*

**Republicans supported the Supreme Court's flawed ruling in the Hobby Lobby case.** The all-male, 5-4 decision put the ACA's birth control benefit at risk for millions of women saying that "closely-held corporations" could choose to deny any federally-required health benefits for their employees and covered dependents on the basis of the employer's religious beliefs. Dozens of Congressional Republicans filed several amicus briefs in support of the Supreme Court's ruling and Republicans filibustered the Not My Boss's Business Act, which would have overturned the Court's flawed ruling. [Amicus brief, [1/28/14](#); Amicus brief, [1/27/14](#); Amicus brief, [1/27/14](#); Senate Vote 228, [7/16/14](#)]

**Republicans have previously introduced legislation that would go even further than the Hobby Lobby decision.** The so-called Blunt Amendment would allow any employer, not just those that are closely-held companies, to take away preventive health coverage from millions of women, putting women's employers between their care and their doctors. [The Blunt Amendment - Vote #24, [3/1/12](#); HHS, [2/12](#); TPM, [3/1/12](#); New York Times, [3/1/12](#)]

**The Republicans' approach would make birth control less affordable for millions of women.** Because of the ACA, birth control coverage is included in every insurance plan and provided at no out-of-pocket cost to consumers (saving women \$483 million in expensive co-pays last year). Republican plans to remove the pill from insurance coverage and put it over the counter mean women would have to pay for the pill entirely out of pocket, costing them hundreds of dollars each year. [IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics, [4/9/14](#); Think Progress, [9/5/14](#)]

**Making some forms of birth control available over-the-counter won't help all women who use birth control.** Many women use a form of birth control that isn't the pill, such as intrauterine devices (IUDs) or tubal ligation, which require procedures that must be performed by a physician. Making the pill available over the counter doesn't provide increased access or affordability for these women. Instead, Republicans push to repeal the ACA – including its benefit of covering all forms of FDA-approved birth control at no out-of-pocket cost – would decrease affordability and coverage of birth control for these women.

You can find more information about the Republican record on this issue and other issues important to women [HERE](#).