

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the Department of Health and Human Services to include all Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved prescription drugs and devices on the list of women's preventive health care services that are exempt from cost sharing under the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act.

SIMPSON

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



Introduced

First Regular Session 117th General Assembly (2011)

SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the Department of Health and Human Services to include all Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved prescription drugs and devices on the list of women's preventive health care services that are exempt from cost sharing under the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act.

Whereas, On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act, H.R. 3590 (the Act) into law;

Whereas, Section 2713 of the Act requires new health insurance plans to cover women's preventive health care services with no co-payments to their members;

Whereas, The Act leaves it to the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to determine what specific preventive benefits will be covered under this Section, which is expected to be determined by August 1, 2011;

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Whereas, This provision of the Act was meant to encourage and invest in basic health care services in order to improve healthy outcomes for all Americans;

Whereas, Prescription birth control enables women to better prevent unintended pregnancy and plan for pregnancy when they do want to have a child. When women plan their pregnancies, they are more likely to seek prenatal care, improving their own health and the health of their children;

Whereas, Half of all the pregnancies in the United States are unintended. The United States has one of the highest rates of unintended pregnancy among the world's most developed nations. Sixty-nine percent of pregnancies among African-American women are unintended. Fifty-four percent of pregnancies among Latina women are unintended. Forty percent of pregnancies among Caucasian women are unintended;

Whereas, Publicly-funded birth control services and supplies prevent nearly two million unintended pregnancies each year;

Whereas, Access to prescription birth control is directly linked to declines in maternal and infant mortality rates;

Whereas, The United States consistently lags behind other developed nations in maternal and infant mortality rankings (in recent rankings, the United States ranked 42nd in the world for maternal mortality and 30th in the world for infant mortality rates);

Whereas, In addition to the primary purpose of allowing women to plan and prepare for pregnancy, birth control has other health benefits, including reduced risk of endometrial and ovarian cancers, ectopic pregnancy, iron



deficiency anemia related to heavy menstruation, osteoporosis, ovarian cysts, and pelvic inflammatory disease;

Whereas, More than sixty percent of women aged 15-44 are currently using a birth control method;

Whereas, Ninety-eight percent of women who have been sexually active have used birth control at some point in their lives;

Whereas, On average, a woman spends 30 years of her life trying to avoid getting pregnant;

Whereas, A majority of American voters (seventy-one percent) say prescription birth control should be covered without any out-of-pocket costs;

Whereas, For every dollar invested in birth control, \$3.74 is saved in Medicaid expenditures for pregnancy-related care;

Whereas, The cost of prescription birth control is a major factor in inconsistent use of prescription birth control. Co-pays for birth control pills typically range between \$15 and \$50 per month, and for other methods, such as IUDs, co-pays and other out-of-pocket expenses can reach into the hundreds of dollars;

Whereas, Research shows that more than one-third (34 percent) of women voters in America have struggled with the cost of prescription birth control at some point in their lives, and as a result, have used birth control inconsistently. The numbers are even more dramatic among younger women (18–34), with more than half (fifty-five percent) mentioning a time when cost made it difficult to use birth control consistently; and



Whereas, Leading health care providers and medical associations support improved access to birth control including: the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Society for Adolescent Medicine, the American Public Health Association, and the March of Dimes; Therefore:

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. That affordable access to preventive
2 health care services improves healthy outcomes for all Americans.

3 SECTION 2. That the Department of Health and
4 Human Services is urged to include all Federal Food and Drug
5 Administration (FDA) approved prescription contraceptive drugs
6 and devices on the list of women's preventive health care services
7 that are exempt from cost-sharing pursuant to Section 2713 of the
8 Patient Protection Affordable Care Act.

