



NARAL
Pro-Choice Ohio

Putting Prevention First The Ohio Prevention First Act

NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio

uses the political process to
guarantee every woman the
right to make personal
decisions regarding the full
range of reproductive
choices, including
preventing unintended
pregnancy, bearing healthy
children, and choosing legal
abortion.

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Why Prevention First?

- In the United States, about half of all pregnancies are unintended.
(Source: Guttmacher Institute <http://www.guttmacher.org/in-the-know/index.html>)
- 98% of women will, at some point in their lives, use birth control. Birth Control is basic health care and no pharmacist should be able to stop a woman from getting a medication that she and her doctor have decided she needs.
(Source: Guttmacher Institute <http://www.guttmacher.org/media/2005/05/18/index.html>)
- In Ohio 1.3 million women are in need of family planning services and 666,670 women are in need of state funded family planning services.
(Source: Guttmacher Institute)
- Ohio ranks 44th among all states and the District of Columbia in public funding of contraceptive services.
(Source: Guttmacher Institute)
- In 2005 13% of the female students at Timken High School in Canton were pregnant– that’s 65 young women facing unintended pregnancies.
(Source: Canton Repository, MUSTARD SEEDS: The ‘irresponsible’ should get blame, August 21, 2005)
- Ohio has the 28th highest teen pregnancy rate in the United States.
(Source: Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (www.siecus.org))

What the Ohio Prevention First Act will do:

- Forbid a health insurance company from limiting or excluding coverage for FDA-approved prescription contraception if the policy covers other prescription drugs or devices.
- Require sex education classes to provide students with medically accurate information about abstinence, contraception and condom use as ways to prevent unintended pregnancy and STD’s including HIV/AIDS. Sex education programs that do not follow these guidelines are not eligible for state funding.
- Launch a teen pregnancy prevention grant program through the Ohio Department of Health to award grants to public and private entities to establish or expand programs geared toward at-risk youth.
- Earmark the existing \$1.7 million in state funds each year for women’s health programs that include contraceptive services.
- Require a pharmacy to dispense any prescribed drug, device or over-the-counter medication in stock without delay, consistent with the normal timeframe, and ensure that every licensed pharmacy does not intimidate, threaten or harass it’s customers in the delivery of services.
- Ensure access to emergency contraception for sexual assault survivors in all hospital emergency rooms.
- Require the Department of Health to distribute materials and educate medical professionals and the general public about emergency contraception.