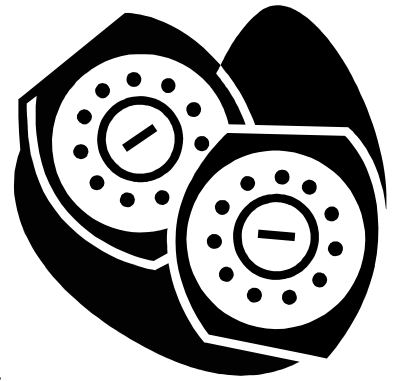


Putting Prevention First: The Ohio Prevention First Act



Why Prevention First?

- Nearly 50% of all pregnancies in the United States each year are unintended, one of the highest unintended pregnancy rates among Industrialized nations. We need common sense solutions to this problem.
- Reducing the unintended pregnancy rate will reduce the number of abortions. Half of all unintended pregnancies end in abortion, by reducing the number of unintended pregnancies we can safely reduce the number of abortions
- Increased access to emergency contraception (EC) is an effective way to reduce unintended pregnancy and the number of abortions. A 2002 study revealed that EC use was likely responsible for up to 43% of the decline in the number of abortions in the United States between 1994 and 2000.
- Last year, 13% of the female students at Timken Senior High School in Canton, Ohio were pregnant– that’s 64 young women facing unintended pregnancies. Ohio has the 28th highest teen pregnancy rate in the U.S. Students deserve honest scientifically proven methods of sexuality education so that they have the life skills to prevent pregnancy when they decide to be sexually active.

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.
- Institute a Pharmacist’s Duty to Dispense all lawful prescriptions unless prior arrangements are made by the pharmacy to fill all lawful prescriptions without delay to the consumer.
- Establish an emergency contraception education program through the Ohio Department of Health to educate medical professionals and the general public about emergency contraception.
- Allow pharmacists to dispense EC without a prescription, after completing a training program.
- Require sex education classes to provide students with medically accurate information about abstinence, contraception and condom use as ways to prevent unintended pregnancies and STDs including HIV/AIDS. Sex education programs that do not follow these guidelines are not eligible for state grant 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 towards at-risk youth.

What can I do to help?

- Call your state senator and state representative and tell them to support the Ohio Prevention First Act
- Download the Prevention First Petition from www.ProChoiceOhio.org and circulate it among friends and family
- Become a NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio Volunteer!