

**From:** [Mark E. Smith](#)  
**To:** [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)  
**Subject:** Thank you for supporting birth control access for all women  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 02, 2011 6:00:18 PM

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Dear Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health & Human Services,

I commend the Department of Health & Human Services' landmark decision requiring health insurers to cover the full cost of contraception, with no co-pay, beginning in August 2012.

With social programs being slashed, jobs that pay a living wage harder to find, a culture saturated with porn and patriarchal values, and women's health clinics being defunded and bombed, it is the very least we can do.

This policy places a much-needed importance on women's health that is too-often not a priority in health care policy. Birth control is a critical part of preventive care, and making contraception available to all women, regardless of their insurance or ability to pay for it, will significantly reduce long-term health care costs associated with unplanned pregnancies.

Thank you for prioritizing women's basic health care needs.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Smith

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