

**To:** [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)  
**Subject:** Thank you for supporting birth control access for all women!  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 02, 2011 9:33:32 PM

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Dear Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health & Human Services,

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

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.

As a female South Carolinian, I have experienced my own lapses in consistent birth control due to financial constraints, even though I had good health insurance coverage for many years. My fellow college students have long lamented the never-ending high cost of birth control!

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

Sincerely,

N. Smart