

From: [M. Collins](#)
To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: object to mandating contraceptive coverage
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I am the former assistant director of a family planning organization that serves nine counties in MI. I am greatly aware of both the need and the cost involved in family planning, infertility treatment, OB/GYN care and obstetrics.

I think it is an area that needs support, but I oppose the proposed mandatory coverage of contraceptives as preventive healthcare.

This mandate sends a poor message.

Pregnancy is NOT a disease.

Healthy fertility is NOT a disease.

Women and men have the freedom to choose to alter their healthy fertility to postpone or end a pregnancy.

But it should be understood that electing to do this is not "health care" and is definitely not disease prevention. (In fact, electing some contraception and abortion procedures can actually compromise a person's health.)

I think it not only sends the wrong message, it puts an unnecessary financial burden on healthcare facilities.

I think it is also short-sighted in that mandating that contraception is 'preventive healthcare' opens the door to having to fund other elective procedures. (e.g. If altering your healthy fertility so it operates differently or terminating a healthy pregnancy are covered -- Shouldn't elective purely cosmetic surgery, teeth whitening, manicures, hair dying/perming/cutting, colored non-prescription contact lens, etc. be covered as well? Just because we can alter a healthy part of our bodies with a chemical, surgery, device or procedure -- does not mean hospitals should have to cover it.)

Finally, I think in matters of elective treatment -- healthcare providers should be able choose what they will and will not cover.

In summary, this mandate does nothing to further healthcare for women. It creates an unnecessary burden on healthcare providers.

It would be MUCH better if monies were instead used to cover TRUE reproductive healthcare issues.

I is a disappointing ploy by pharmaceuticals to line their pockets at the tax payers expense.

Mary Collins
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