

RESOLUTION ADOPTED at CLUW NEB March 9, 2012

BASIC PREVENTIVE CARE MUST INCLUDE CONTRACEPTION

The Coalition of Labor Union Women, at the CLUW convention in October 2001, resolved to urge all unions to secure full contraceptive health insurance coverage on the same terms as other drugs and preventive care.

The American Federation of Labor, on December 6, 2001, resolved to work with the government to ensure that contraceptive coverage was included in health care plans just as other drugs, devices and preventive care were covered.

CLUW and the AFL acknowledged that covering contraception does not raise health care costs and can help reduce absenteeism and medical costs related to unintended pregnancies.

Providing contraception as a covered health benefit ensures fewer unintended pregnancies, healthier women and stronger families.

President Obama's Affordable Health Care Act recognizes that birth control is basic health care for women and determined that insurers must cover all FDA approved contraceptives.

Nearly all women of reproductive age use contraception, including 98 percent of Catholic women, despite opposition by religious leaders.

Extremists demanding no birth control coverage in the name of religious freedom held a congressional hearing in February 2012 at which they allowed no women or dissenting witnesses to speak. They would allow employers to deny health care coverage to their employees based on their personal beliefs.

CLUW has joined the Coalition to Protect Women's Health Care to advocate that all women have access to birth control, without a co-pay and no matter where they work.

RESOLVED

The Coalition of Labor Union Women affirms its position that reproductive health care, including contraception, is basic health care for women and must be covered as a preventive health service.

CLUW opposes efforts to restrict health care coverage on the grounds of religious freedom.

CLUW affirms the right of all employees to make their own personal health care decisions regarding reproduction and other health issues.

CLUW recognizes the denial of contraceptive coverage as discrimination against women and an attack on workers' right to basic health coverage.

CLUW members, officers, and chapters will urge unions to support coverage for contraception without co-pay in all workplaces as part of the implementation of the Affordable Health Care Act, and will actively oppose legislation that restricts contraceptive coverage.

CLUW members will be a voice for contraceptive coverage as basic preventive health care for women at union meetings, women's committees, civil and human rights committees, local and community meetings, media events, and other places.

CLUW will urge the AFL-CIO to be visible and vocal in support of working women's right to preventive health care including contraception coverage without co-pay as part of the implementation of the Affordable Health Care Act, and will urge the AFL-CIO to use their resources to oppose legislation that restricts contraceptive coverage.