



# The National Campaign

to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

December 22, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama  
451 Sixth St NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear President-Elect Obama,

On behalf of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, I extend my congratulations on your historic victory. We have appreciated your leadership in the United States Senate on the issue of affordable contraception and hope that you will continue to make it a priority when you take office.

As you well know, access to contraception is integral to preventing unplanned pregnancy, particularly among unmarried women in their twenties. According to the American College Health Association, approximately 40 percent of undergraduate women use oral contraceptives to prevent pregnancy. Until 2007, students and patients at subsidized clinics were able to receive discounted birth control because of the “Nominal Pricing Exception” (NPE). The NPE allows pharmaceutical companies to sell prescription drugs to college health centers and safety net providers at the lowest cost.

However, an unintended consequence of the *Deficit Reduction Act of 2005* (P.L. 109-362) was to alter the NPE and make university health services and safety net clinics ineligible for these important discounts. Since January 1, 2007, birth control prices have increased as much as tenfold for patients in these clinics, causing many women to put themselves at risk of unintended pregnancy due to prohibitive costs.

At no additional cost to the government, *The Prevention Through Affordable Access Act* (H.R. 4054/S. 2347), which you introduced with Congressman Crowley, would have corrected this inadvertent mistake that has restricted access to affordable birth control and forced many women to unfairly weigh the costs of protection against the possibility of unintended pregnancy.

Nearly half of all pregnancies in the United States are unplanned, which often derails young women and men from their educational and professional pursuits. Promoting both personal responsibility and responsible policies that make contraception affordable and easily accessible for those who are not planning a pregnancy is essential to reducing the high levels of teen and unplanned pregnancy in this country.

We respectfully urge you to continue your strong leadership on this pressing issue to rectify the problems caused by P.L. 109-362. Please contact Andrea Kane, Senior Director of Policy and Partnerships at 202-478-8554 or by email at [akane@thenc.org](mailto:akane@thenc.org) or Jessica Swafford, Senior Manager of Public Policy, at 202-478-8529 or by email at [jswafford@thenc.org](mailto:jswafford@thenc.org) for further information about this request.

Sincerely,

Sarah S. Brown