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For Immediate Release

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**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Announces
Preventive Services for Women at No Additional Cost
A Statement from The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and
Unplanned Pregnancy**

(Washington, DC)—Today U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that HHS will adopt the recommendations from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Women’s Preventive Services Study Committee and require health insurers to cover “all Food and Drug Administration approved contraceptive methods, sterilization procedures, and patient education and counseling for all women with reproductive capacity” without co-pays or deductibles for patients. HHS also adopted all seven other IOM women’s preventive services recommendations including at least one well-woman preventive care visit annually for women.

“The National Campaign applauds Secretary Sebelius and HHS for this important step forward for women, children, and families. We are thrilled that contraceptive methods, as well as education and counseling, will be included as a preventive service free from cost-sharing” said Sarah Brown, CEO of The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. “This historic decision by HHS to adopt the IOM recommendations recognizes what we have known for decades—that access to affordable and effective contraception improves health, shrinks costs to the individual and society, reduces abortion, and helps to promote stronger families.”

HHS also issued a “notice of proposed rulemaking” that allows certain religious institutions that offer insurance to their employees the choice of whether or not to cover contraception services, subject to a 60-day comment period. We hope that the final rule will not preclude any woman who wishes to access contraception without cost-sharing from doing so.

At present, fully one-half of all pregnancies in the United States are unplanned as reported by the women themselves. Unplanned pregnancy costs taxpayers an estimated \$11 billion a year. In addition to direct medical costs, unplanned pregnancy imposes burdens on individuals and families, as well as considerable social and economic costs to society.

Contraception is both widely used and broadly supported. Ninety-nine percent of women have used contraception. This support is strong across all demographic, religious, and political groups. For example, 90 percent of Evangelical Christians support contraception.

[The HHS Announcement is available here.](#)

[The full IOM report is available here.](#)

About The National Campaign: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy seeks to improve the lives and future prospects of children and families. Our specific strategy is to prevent teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy among single, young adults. We support a combination of responsible values and behavior by both men and women and responsible policies in both the public and private sectors. If we are successful, child and family well-being will improve. Please visit www.TheNationalCampaign.org to find out more.