

Press Statement: October 10, 2017

Roll Back of Health Insurance Coverage Hurts Women

President Trump's recent roll back of the federal requirement that employers must include birth control coverage in their health insurance plans is an enormous step backwards for women's health and their ability to make their own decisions about their own health.

The contraceptive coverage mandate gave 55 million women access to birth control without co-payments. The roll back will hurt the health of thousands of women without resources to purchase contraceptives. Sadly, it will also result in an increased number of abortions, which should be safe, legal, and available but also rare. I have seen firsthand the horror of what happens when access is limited and needed medication, medical procedures or care is not available or too expensive.

We know that more than half of unplanned pregnancies occur with women who can't easily access women's health services. Reducing access to contraceptives is wrong as well as misguided.

As Senator, I have voted to support women's health and voted against bills that would hurt a woman's right to make her own health decisions.

As Governor, I will fund Planned Parenthood and other clinics that provide women's health services. I will expand pre-natal care, child care, and support services for mothers with young children, particularly single mothers with young children. We can do better in making sure all women and babies are safe and healthy.