

MEMORANDUM

Date: January , 2011

To: All House Members

From: Representative Chelsa Wagner

Subject: Co-sponsorship of Legislation: *Birth Control Insurance Coverage* (Formerly HB 1589 from 2009-2010 Session)

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce House Bill 1589 from last session. This legislation amends the Insurance Company Law of 1921 to require coverage of prescription contraceptive drugs, devices, and medical or counseling services necessary for the effective use of contraception.

The average female who wants two children will spend approximately five years trying to get pregnant and more than 20 years trying to avoid pregnancy. During these 20-plus years, most women will use contraceptives, making birth control an important element of women's health care needs. Requiring private insurance companies to cover contraception will increase access to more effective methods and will allow a greater number of women to plan, space, and time pregnancies. An estimated [11.6 million American women](#) use oral contraceptives, the leading method of contraceptive in the United States. According to [the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion](#), almost half of all pregnancies in the United States are unintended. Unintended pregnancies are associated with increased risk for poor birth outcomes. Contraceptive use can and does dramatically reduce the odds of an unintended pregnancy. Currently, 27 other states have enacted laws mandating that access to birth control coverage be extended to women and families.

The following members cosponsored House Bill 1589 last session:
BRENNAN, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, DePASQUALE, FRANKEL, GERBER, JOSEPHS,
MAHONEY, MANDERINO, MANN, McGEEHAN, McILVAINE SMITH, MUNDY, M. O'BRIEN,
PARKER, ROSS, SIPTROTH, STURLA, WHITE AND YOUNGBLOOD

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Johnathan Detrick at jdetrick@pahouse.net