

DAYLIN LEACH, MEMBER
149TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
□ 109A EAST WING
HOUSE BOX 202020
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020
PHONE: (717) 783-9114
FAX: (717) 787-0861

□ 601 SOUTH HENDERSON ROAD
SUITE 208
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406
PHONE: (610) 768-4200
FAX: (610) 768-4204



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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DATE: March 7, 2005
FROM: Representative Daylin Leach *DL*
TO: All House Members
RE: Prescription Contraception Equity Act
Previous HB #1635

Shortly, I will be introducing the "Prescription Contraception Equity Act". This legislation will prohibit insurance companies that provide prescription drug coverage from excluding prescription contraceptives from that coverage.

I strongly believe that this act will allow women much greater access to contraception. Each year, more than 3,000,000 women face an unintended pregnancy, representing nearly half of all pregnancies in the United States. By reducing rates of unintended pregnancy, contraception improves women's health and well-being, reduces infant morbidity and mortality and reduces the need for abortion. This is clearly an important piece of pro-family legislation.

It has been estimated that the cost of adding this coverage will be less than \$2.00 per month per employee. Health insurance policies that fail to cover prescription contraception and related medical and counseling services discriminate against women and place effective forms of contraception beyond the financial reach of many families. Women of reproductive age spend 68% more than men on out-of-pocket health care costs. Contraceptive drugs, devices and related medical and counseling services account for much of this difference. 20 states have now enacted legislation providing the sort of redress that this bill provides.

If you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact my legislation assistant, Debbie Brady at 3-9114, or at dbrady@pahouse.net.

Prior Co-sponsors: Frankel, DeWeese, Mann, Creighton, Bebko-Jones, Bishop, Curry, Freeman, James, Josephs, Kirkland, Levdansky, Manderino, McGeehan, Mundy, Roebuck, Ross, Sturla, Walko, Waters and Youngblood.