

http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/birthcontrol_hhs_aca/?p=birthcontrol_hhs_aca&r=14177296&id=56364-2923146-%3DSm0QZx

Thank you for the new the Affordable Care Act rules on contraception, which ensure that women have access to no-cost birth control. Please continue to protect this access, regardless of the right-wing opposition.

Dear Lynn,

The Obama Administration made every reasonable effort to compromise with religiously-affiliated employers when implementing rules on women's access to birth control coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

An update to the birth control benefit in the health care reform gives religious employers the ability to hand the responsibility to provide birth control coverage to a third party insurance company.¹ But right-wing opponents led by the Conference of Catholic bishops are still balking at the plan.²

President Obama did the right thing for women when he rejected the demands of rightwing activists and gave all women access to no-cost birth control through their insurance coverage.³ But before these new guidelines go into effect, his administration is holding a public comment period on the new rules. We know that anti-woman activists will flood President Obama's Department of Health and Human Services with comments urging the administration to overturn its historic decision. **[President Obama needs to hear that the vast majority of Americans support his decision to ensure access to no-cost birth control for all women. Click here to submit a public comment in support of access to birth control.](#)**

The Department of Health and Human Services and the medical community agree that providing no-cost birth control is an essential part of preventive health care for women. And Kathleen Sebelius, the director of HHS, said that providing birth control at no cost to women should be like "covering flu shots."⁴ However, before activists from CREDO and Planned Parenthood began petitioning President Obama, the *New York Times* reported that the president was dangerously close to caving to the demands of the anti-woman lobby by adding a giant loophole that would keep a large number of women from being able to access no-cost birth control.⁵ CREDO members sent over 160,000 petitions and made over 3,000 calls to the White House asking President Obama not to cave. In the end, President Obama listened to our call to protect women's health. But that doesn't mean our work is done.

Some right-wing organizations are already balking at the plan even though it allows religious employers to avoid providing birth control directly to their employees. These anti-woman extremists will surely use the public comment process to file reams of objections to the plan. So let's make sure the president hears from those of us who want him to stand strong and protect access to contraception.

Make sure that President Obama hears that the vast majority of Americans support his decision to ensure access to no-cost birth control for all women. Click below to submit a comment in support of access to contraception:
http://act.credoaction.com/r/?r=14177296&p=birthcontrol_hhs_aca&id=56364-2923146-%3DSm0QZx&t=4

Thank you for standing up for women's access to birth control.

[Learn more about this campaign](#)

1. Julie Rovner, "White House Tries Again To Find Compromise On Contraception." NPR, February 01, 2013.

2. Imani Gandy, "So What's the Deal with the New Contraception Mandate Rules?." RH Reality Check, February 01, 2013.

3. N.C. Aizenman, "Obama Birth Control Policy: Administration Lays Out Proposals For Carrying Out Compromise." The Huffington Post, 3-16-2012.

4. N.C. Aizenman, "New U.S. rules require insurance coverage for contraception." The Washington Post, 8-1-2011.

5. Robert Pear, "Democrats Urge Obama to Protect Contraceptive Coverage in Health Plans." New York Times, 11-19-2011.

Subject: RE: Healthy Families Transition Updates

Greetings *Covering Kids and Families* and *LA Access to Health* Coalition Partners:

Please see below important updates regarding the Healthy Families to Medi-Cal transition. While there are a number of resources available about the transition, we have highlighted a few below that may be helpful in preparation for Phases 1C and Phase 2 slated to begin April 1, 2013. For a list of counties and the total number of children that will be transitioning to Medi-Cal in each phase visit <http://goo.gl/1sjsG>. As a reminder, the Dept. of Health Care Services (DHCS) website provides many more resources for stakeholders at <http://goo.gl/6YnWI>.

Phase 2 Implementation Resources

- *Phase 2 Implementation Plan*: <http://goo.gl/SKLha>
- *Notices to Consumers*: drafts of notices sent to families in phases 1C and 2 are available at <http://goo.gl/Uuoyg>
- *Phase 2 Network Adequacy Assessment*: <http://goo.gl/lm64a>
- *Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program*: WIC would like to collaborate with organizations working with families impacted by the transition to inform them of potential eligibility for WIC benefits. Partners can contact Barbara Longo, MS, RD at Barbara.Longo@cdph.ca.gov (state contact) or Denise C. Gee at denise@phfewic.org (for organizations in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and/or Orange County) to obtain more information.
- **CCS will "follow" the Healthy Families recipient to Medi-Cal AND children in Targeted Low Income Children's Program for Medi-Cal will be eligible.**

Enrollment Entity and CAA Resources

- *EE and CAA Stakeholder webinars*: DHCS coordinated 2 webinars specifically for CAAs and EEs to provide updates and answer questions related to the transition.
 - *Feb 19 webinar*: provides a general overview of the transition. <http://goo.gl/wMR7S>
 - *March 18 webinar*: includes updates regarding WIC benefits for children transitioning to Medi-Cal and new Targeted Low-Income Children's Program (TLICP) enrollees; eligibility policy Q and A between DHCS and EE/CAAs; and general transition updates. A recording will be available at <http://goo.gl/Am0KY>
- *CAA Toolkit*: to prepare CAAs helping families navigate changes resulting from the transition, DHCS put together a toolkit that includes links to helpful resources including current application process flowcharts, a Healthy Families and Medi-Cal forms comparison, required documentation information, a comparison of Healthy Families benefits and Medi-Cal benefits and much more. Additionally, the toolkit includes links to All County Welfare Directors Letters regarding the transition. These are helpful when working with local county staff unfamiliar with the transition changes. Copies of WIC Brochures in multiple languages are also available. <http://goo.gl/wMR7S>
- *Kaiser Permanente Community Communication to CAAs and CBOs about the transition.* (Attached).

State Guidance to Counties

- *All County Welfare Directors Letter 12-29*: Provides guidance about Data Reporting and Performance Standards for the Healthy Families Program.
- *All County Welfare Directors Letter 12-30*: Provides information about the Healthy Families Program Transition To Medi-Cal including information about aid codes for transitioning children and aid codes for children newly enrolled in the TLICP.
- *All County Welfare Directors Letter 12-33*: Provides guidance about the Targeted Low-Income Children's Program.

- [*All County Welfare Directors Letter 12-37*](#): Provides information about the Elimination of Healthy Families Notice of Action (NOA) Language. As a result of the transition, Medi-Cal program references to the HFP should no longer be included in most Medi-Cal NOAs after the transition has begun.
- **ACWDL 13-03 (February 1, 2013)**
Screening of (1) Child Applicants in the Age Group 6-18 for Potential No-Cost Medi-Cal Eligibility Under Section 1931 (b) and (2) Deemed Eligibility Medi-Cal Infants Under the Age of One
- *Single Point of Entry Applications and Forms Guide*: This guide was developed to help county eligibility workers understand the purpose of applications and forms they may see forwarded to them from the Single Point of Entry (SPE). <http://goo.gl/Z1ffm>

Monitoring and Oversight Reports

- *Monitoring Report for the Healthy Families to Medi-Cal*: DHCS is required to provide monthly reports to the legislature and CMS about how the transition of children to Medi-Cal is going. The reports include information not limited to the following: health plan grievances related to access to care, continuity of care requests and outcomes, changes to provider networks including provider enrollment and disenrollment changes, and eligibility performance standards. Reports for the months of March and February are available at <http://goo.gl/T5ChH>.
- *Draft Healthy Families Transition Evaluation plan*: the State is required to submit to CMS a draft evaluation design for the transition for approval. A draft version of the state's evaluation plan is available at <http://goo.gl/awKQW>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or by phone.

Thank you and have a good afternoon,

Fatima D. Morales, MSW

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