



THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPRESENTATIVE KATE HOGAN
THIRD MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
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House Passes Legislation to Protect Women at Risk of Losing Birth Control Coverage

Underscores economic impact of contraception coverage

BOSTON- Representative Kate Hogan joined her colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives to pass legislation to ensure that Massachusetts women have access to no-copay contraception. This action follows the Trump Administration's decision to weaken critical provisions of the Affordable Care Act related to women's health and preventive care.

This compromise bill requires insurers to cover contraceptives and contraceptive services in Massachusetts, including education, counseling and follow-up treatment, without any out-of-pocket cost to the patient. In an effort to contain healthcare costs, the bill only requires insurers to cover one version of a drug or device free of charge, if a therapeutic equivalent (generic drug) is available, unless otherwise directed by a patient's doctor.

"Given the far-reaching changes being made on the federal level, I'm proud that my colleagues and I have taken a key step towards ensuring women in the Commonwealth can still access the birth control they need," said Representative Kate Hogan (D-Stow). "I was an original co-sponsor of this critical legislation when it was first introduced, and was particularly pleased that reproductive rights advocates worked closely with health insurers in our state to negotiate the compromise language passed swiftly by the House earlier this month—demonstrating the effectiveness of bringing all parties to the table to protect Massachusetts residents during these uncertain times."

Understanding that consistency is critical to effective use of contraceptives, this bill allows patients to pick up a twelve-month supply of medicine subsequent to an initial three-month prescription. In its October 2017 report, Massachusetts' Center for Health Information and Analysis notes that "increasing the dispensing period of contraceptives to a year facilitates access and may lead to a more consistent contraceptive use."

The legislation also mandates no-copay coverage for emergency contraception with a prescription. Access to preventive healthcare and affordable contraception continues to have a significant impact on the economic stability of women. Contraceptives make up about 30 to 44 percent of out-of-pocket healthcare spending for women. Since 1960, it is estimated that about one-third of the wage gains made by women are the result of access to birth control.

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Representative Kate Hogan

Representative Kate Hogan represents the Third Middlesex District, which includes the towns of Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow. She currently serves as the House Chair on the Joint Committee on Public Health. She also serves as Chair of the Library Legislative Caucus and Co-Chair of the Legislature's Elder Caucus. Rep. Hogan can be reached by phone at 617-722-2130 or by email at Kate.Hogan@MAhouse.gov. You can also connect with Rep. Hogan on Facebook ([facebook.com/kate.hogan.948](https://www.facebook.com/kate.hogan.948)) or Twitter (@repkatehogan).



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