



## Legislation Summary:

### An Act relative to advancing contraceptive coverage and economic security

Initial bill number: [S499/H536](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Sen. Harriette Chandler, Rep. Patricia Haddad and Rep. John Scibak

This bill, also known as the ACCESS Act, provides for insurance coverage of all FDA-approved contraceptive drugs and devices without copays or deductibles. Such coverage is currently available under the Affordable Care Act. The bill would prevent insurers from requiring women to try and “fail” multiple methods of birth control before authorizing coverage for a potentially more effective form. It would also eliminate cost-sharing for contraception, voluntary sterilization and contraceptive counseling for men.

Contraception is currently covered without copays, but, with the threat of repeal of the Affordable Care Act, it is necessary to make sure that remains the case under health insurance going forward. It will provide Massachusetts women with the birth control method of their choice. Expensive copays on some types of contraception can cause a woman to opt for a method that is not right for her. Women will not need to get insurance approval to change methods.

**League position:** From *Where We Stand*, p. 52: Reproductive Choices: Goal: Freedom of individuals to make informed reproductive decisions based on their own convictions and beliefs. (1972)

The League supports: • emphasis on preventive measures to avoid unwanted pregnancies • access to family planning information, services and devices to people who want them • wide distribution of information about contraception and sterilization • public funding for birth control and abortion services for the poor • research on birth control methods

The League opposes restrictive birth control and abortion laws.