



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

July 17, 2015

The Honorable Patty Murray  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 120,900 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to express our support for the *Affordability Is Access Act* (S. 1532).

The AAFP supports over-the-counter (OTC) access to oral contraception and fully recognizes the importance of insurance coverage of contraceptives regardless of prescription status. Access to affordable birth control can help prevent unintended pregnancies, which is a major public health concern, accounting for approximately 50 percent of US pregnancies. In fact, over 100 countries currently provide oral contraceptive pills over the counter without a prescription. Research indicates that one in three women have struggled to afford birth control at some point in their lives. If approved, this legislation would be another important advance in public health for America's women and their families.

In particular, the legislation would require the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to establish standards for making contraceptives available over the counter. Also, the bill would extend health insurance coverage for OTC birth control pills.

We appreciate your commitment to the health of children, women and families across the country. Please let us know if we can be of assistance to you. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact Sonya Clay, Government Relations Representative, at 202-232-9033 or [sclay@aafp.org](mailto:sclay@aafp.org).

Sincerely,

Reid B. Blackwelder, MD, FAAFP  
Board Chair

[www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org)

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