



June 2, 2017

The Honorable Tom Price, MD  
Secretary, Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC

Dear Secretary Price:

I am writing on behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) to express our strong concern and opposition to a leaked Department of Health and Human Services proposed interim final rule that would rollback access to no-cost contraception coverage, as required under current law. It is our sincere hope that the Administration will reconsider the issuance of this regulation and instead leave in place current policy, which has been instrumental to the health and wellbeing of millions of women.

Family physicians provide comprehensive and continuous primary care to women of all ages. A central part of this care is focused on our patients' reproductive health. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, nearly all women (99%) have used contraceptives at some point in their lives and 62% of women are currently using at least one method. It is difficult for us, as physicians providing comprehensive women's health care, to understand the reasoning behind the proposed recommendation to no longer consider contraception a preventive service as defined by Section 2713 of the Public Health Service Act (PHSA).

According to a 2015 [report](#) released by HHS, more than 55 million women have benefited from no-cost coverage for contraception services and supplies. Furthermore, since the implementation of this policy, the country has achieved 30 year lows in its unintended pregnancy rate, including among teens. Furthermore, preventing unintended pregnancies through evidence-based preventive measures is sound public health and economic policy.

We urge the Administration to reconsider the promulgation of this interim final rule. Providing no-cost coverage for contraception is an important and impactful policy that has positively impacted millions of women. We hope that you will follow the science and evidence and continue this important policy.

Sincerely,

Wanda D. Filer, MD, MBA, FFAFP  
Board Chair

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