

Moving Forward...Protecting Women's Health Care

March 23rd marks the one year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act being signed into law. While Republicans want to re-fight the same old political wars to give control over our health care back to insurance companies, it's time to move forward to protect women's health. Moving forward means insurance companies can no longer charge a woman more just because of her gender. Moving forward means no longer branding a woman as a pre-existing condition, simply because of a Caesarean section or because she was a victim of domestic violence. It means women can no longer be dropped from their insurance because they get sick, their children can no longer be denied care because of a pre-existing condition, and women and their families can receive preventive health care without a co-pay. It's time we all move forward...women and their families cannot afford to go back.

The Affordable Care Act Ends Insurance Company Abuses On Women. The Affordable Care Act ends unconscionable insurance company practices against women. That means insurers will no longer be able to charge women higher premiums than men. And it means they will no longer be able to use Caesarean sections or domestic violence as pre-existing conditions to deny women health care, and will no longer be able to drop women's coverage if they get sick. [Healthcare.gov, What the Health Law Means for Women, [2/18/11](#); McClatchy, [10/4/09](#)]

The Affordable Care Act Provides Security For Essential Health Care, Such As Maternity Care. The Affordable Care Act gives women more security over their health care. Under the law, all new health plans will be required to offer essential benefits for women such as maternity care, newborn care and prescription drug benefits. According to the National Women Law Center, only 13 percent of health plans in the individual market include maternity care. [National Women's Law Center, [October 2009](#)]

The Affordable Care Act Ends Co-Pays And Other Expenses For Preventive Services, Such As Mammograms And Well-Child Visits. Because of the Affordable Care Act, Americans joining a new health plan or Medicare beneficiaries can receive recommended preventive services without a co-pay, deductible or any other out-of-pocket expenses. This provision is helpful for women because it will cover such services as mammograms, new baby care and well-child visits. [Healthcare.gov, What the Health Law Means for Women, [2/18/11](#)]

The Affordable Care Act Gives Women The Freedom To Choose Their Own Doctor. Because of the Affordable Care Act, women have more freedom to choose their own health care provider. The law guarantees women the right to choose their primary care doctor from their health provider network. It also eliminates barriers for women to see OB-GYNs. Under the law, health plans can no longer require a referral from a primary physician in order to visit an OB-GYN. Now, women have control over these important health decisions. [Healthcare.gov, [Preserving Doctor Choice and Ensuring Emergency Care](#)]

The Affordable Care Act Ends Lifetime Limits On Health Care. The Affordable Care Act bans insurance companies from being able to put lifetime caps on health care. It also restricts annual limits and will ban them entirely in 2014. This means women will be able to get the care they need when they need it most. [Healthcare.gov, What the Health Law Means for Women, [2/18/11](#)]

The Affordable Care Act Bans Insurers From Denying Care To Children Because Of A Pre-Existing Condition, Giving Security To As Many As 17 Million Children And Their Parents. The Affordable Care Act ends some of the worst insurance company abuses, such as denying children care because of a pre-existing condition. As many as 17 million children under the age of 18 have some type of pre-existing condition. The Affordable Care Act gives these children, and their parents, the peace of mind, that they will be able to obtain care. And it will end these abuses for everyone in 2014. [Healthcare.gov, [At Risk: Pre-Existing Conditions Could Affect 1 in 2 Americans](#)]