

ABORTION, BIRTH CONTROL, AND CONTRACEPTION RESOLUTION 2018

07/2018

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ruled that Plan B pills should be over the counter in 2011; and

WHEREAS, condoms and Plan B prevent unwanted pregnancies; and

WHEREAS, it places undue burden on consumers that pharmacies and grocery stores regularly place safe sex supplies out of reach of people who need them; and

WHEREAS, the same pharmacies place the Plan B medications in lock boxes so that women risk embarrassment at attempting to obtain the medications; and

WHEREAS, more than 100 countries already offer contraception over the counter - but the United States (U.S.) doesn't, aside from the emergency contraceptive often known by the brand name Plan B; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 45 percent of pregnancies in the U.S. are unplanned; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States vacancy potentially puts abortion and birth control access in jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, maternal death rates in the US are already too high, and the combination of some women being forced to carry an unintended pregnancy to term and likely delaying prenatal care and some women seeking abortions from unsafe providers could lead to even more women dying—particularly women of color and low-income women; and

WHEREAS, in October, the Trump administration issued an “interim final rule” that allows any employer, including large for-profit companies to immediately stop providing insurance coverage for birth control for religious or moral reasons; and

WHEREAS, Texas tried to exclude abortion providers from Medicaid during the Obama administration but courts blocked it from doing so; instead the state created its own program in 2013 and refused \$35 million in federal Medicaid money to do it; and

WHEREAS, the Global Gag Rule limits education about abortion, birth control and Contraception; and

WHEREAS, NOW acknowledges that women are capable of making decisions about if, when, and how they want to define their families; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW calls to action its chapters, activists, leaders, members and supporters across the country to lobby birth control, contraception and Plan B vendors to ensure they provide easy access to contraception, pregnancy prevention and safe sex supplies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW calls to action its chapters, activists, leaders, members and supporters across the country to work to elect progressive feminist candidates, especially people of color, to address the economic, racial, and social justice aspects of access to reproductive healthcare; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW calls to action its chapters, activists, leaders, members and supporters across the country to fight to ensure education about abortion, birth control and contraception.