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The Honorable Diana Harshbarger

U.S. House of Representatives

167 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Harshbarger,

I am reaching out to you as a devoted member of our community. My name is Erica Miller, and I am currently in my fourth semester as a nurse practitioner student. I am writing you today in hopes that you will strongly support Bill S.4381, the “Affordable Contraception for All Act of 2024." This bill is an important step towards expanding access to contraceptive methods and improving educational resources, which are major issues in both reproductive health and in nursing practice.

As a student in clinical rotations, I have seen the challenges patients face when they do not have reliable access to contraception. These barriers can have serious consequences, whether it be from a lack of knowledge about different methods, financial constraints, or difficulties with obtaining prescriptions. The Affordable Contraception for All Act of 2024 directly addresses these challenges by aiming to broaden access and enhance education (U.S. Congress, 2024). When looking at commercial or private insurance contraception coverage women pay approximately 60% of the out-of-pocket expenses compared to the 33% for non-contraceptive medications (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, 2015).

The Act includes several essential vital measures. Its general purpose is to increase funding for family planning services, provide better training for healthcare providers on contraceptive options, and allow for more extensive public education campaigns. These steps ensure that patients get the comprehensive information they need to make informed decisions about their reproductive health (U.S. Congress, 2024).

Research shows that improving access to contraception has many different benefits, including lower rates of unintended pregnancies, better maternal and child health, and overall improved health outcomes for women and families (U.S. Congress, 2024). Currently, 49% of pregnancies are unintended causing women to face difficult life-altering decisions such as adoption or abortion (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, 2015). For example, better access to contraceptives has been linked to lower abortion rates and healthier outcomes for mothers and children.

I passionately encourage you to support the Affordable Contraception for All Act of 2024. This bill is a significant move towards the improvement of reproductive health and to help in addressing gaps in access to contraceptive services. Your support could make a major difference in the lives of many individuals and families.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I appreciate your role in our community and your dedication to improving healthcare access and equity.

Sincerely,

Erica L. Miller

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References:

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (2015). *Access to*

*contraception* (Committee Opinion No. 798). Retrieved from <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2015/01/access-to-contraception>

U.S. Congress. (2024). *S.4381 - Affordable Contraception for All Act of 2024* (Text as of August

7, 2024). Retrieved from <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/4381/text>