

**From:** [Hutton, Cara](#)  
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Dear Chair Murray and honorable members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Cara Hutton. I live in Providence, RI and I am a fourth year Brown University student and Generation Action Intern with the Planned Parenthood of Southern New England.

**I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2254 (Senate Euer).** This bill updates the existing Rhode Island state law mandating coverage of contraception enacted in 2000 in order to ensure access to all FDA-approved methods, limit insurer restrictions, require coverage of contraception-related services, and ensure no-cost sharing coverage for FDA-approved over-the-counter contraception.

For over four years, I have been a birth control user. And during those four years, I have always had to pay some amount of money out of pocket, for the method that works best for me. I know other friends and classmates who have dealt with the same situation for even longer than me.

Through my personal experience as a woman and professional affiliation with PPSNE, I know that birth control has an unbelievable number of side effects, regardless of which method you use, and it can be extremely difficult for folks to figure out which, if any, may be the right fit.

When I think about the very real financial burden this kind of trial and error places on so many individuals, I imagine how much harder this process becomes. It is in the interest of anyone who uses birth control, their partners, and families, to provide ALL FDA approved birth control methods at no cost to the patient.

This is supported by the fact that birth control use is nearly **universal**. Ninety-nine percent of all sexually experienced women and 98% of sexually experienced Catholic women have used it at some point in their lives. And, although the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has expanded coverage and access to birth control for millions of women, over time there have been increasing gaps in coverage. At this moment in time, me and my classmates are all too aware that we cannot rely on federal protections for our healthcare.

I strongly support passing Senate Bill 2254 to safeguard no-copay birth control, building on a critical ACA health insurance benefit, in our state law. Preventive reproductive care — including birth control — is basic health care and everyone

needs access to the contraceptive method that is right for their life. This is not just a health issue, it's an economic issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cara Hutton

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