



**For Immediate Release: April 10, 2013**

**Contact:** Morgan Meneses-Sheets  
(202) 530-4401 office  
(202) 812-9229 cell  
[mmsheets@rhtp.org](mailto:mmsheets@rhtp.org)

## **President's Budget Takes Two Steps Forward, But Steps Away From Critical Abortion Access Questions**

*Advocates urge Congress to eliminate unfair restrictions on abortion coverage.*

Washington, DC -- Statement by Susannah Baruch, Interim President & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project, on the budget that President Obama submitted to Congress, which allows the District of Columbia to use its own funds to cover abortion for low-income women and provides abortion coverage for Peace Corps volunteers in cases of rape, but continues to restrict health coverage for Medicaid and Medicare enrollees, Federal employees and their dependents, Peace Corps volunteers, Native American women, and women in federal prisons.

"We thank the President for providing the District of Columbia with the option to use its own funds to cover abortion care for low-income women. We appreciate that he included abortion coverage for Peace Corps volunteers who are survivors of rape. The pain caused by sexual violence should never be made worse by denying access to care. **These are important first steps, but there is much more that must be done to ensure that no woman is denied health coverage for abortion just because of her income or type of insurance.**

"We are concerned that the budget continues to withhold coverage for abortion for women who use benefits through federal health programs, including low-income women with coverage through Medicaid, federal employees and women who access care through Indian Health Services.

**"For a woman to be able to make a real decision based on what's best for her own circumstances, she needs to be able to afford it.** Providing insurance coverage ensures she will be able to access care from a licensed, quality health care provider in a timely manner.

"Restrictions on abortion coverage harm women's health and erect unnecessary and unfair barriers to care, particularly for low-income women who already face significant barriers to receiving high-quality care.

"The fact is that decisions about whether to choose adoption, end a pregnancy, or raise a child are better left to a woman and her family. **We now turn our attention to Congress and urge them to put politics aside, stop interfering with personal decision-making and lift restrictions on coverage of abortion care.**"

1020 19th Street NW – Suite 875 – Washington, DC 20036 – 202.530.4401 – fax: 202.530-4404 – [www.rhtp.org](http://www.rhtp.org)