

RHTP Celebrates Supreme Court Decision to Maintain Affordable Access to Health Care

Preventive Services Such As Birth Control Will Continue to Be Covered at No Cost

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Contact: Amber Melvin
amelvin@rhtp.org/ 202-530-4401

Washington, DC – Today the U.S. Supreme Court decided the case of [*King v. Burwell*](#) and threw out a challenge to the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) federal subsidies. By doing so, the Court maintained financial assistance to millions of Americans, many of whom would be unable to afford insurance otherwise, in states that did not establish their own health insurance marketplaces. Thanks to the ACA, 11 million people nationwide now have health insurance who did not have it previously. Likewise, under the ACA, millions of women gained coverage for preventive care, including birth control, breast cancer screenings, and well-woman exams, among other important services, with no cost-sharing such as co-pays or deductibles.

Had the Supreme Court struck down the federal subsidies, those facing the most barriers to care would have been hit the hardest—1.4 million women of color and nearly 5 million low-income people could have lost their health coverage. In deciding today’s case, the Supreme Court’s message is clear: The ACA subsidies are legal, working, and here to stay.

Prior to the ACA, the high out-of-pocket costs of birth control—sometimes up to \$600 a year—made it unaffordable for many women. The ACA’s contraceptive coverage benefit, however, requires insurance plans to cover all Food & Drug Administration-approved birth control methods, as well as the medical services required to obtain them, at no additional cost beyond the plan’s premium. Today’s ruling means that the millions of women and their partners who have come to rely on the ACA’s contraceptive coverage guarantee can breathe a sigh of relief.

“Women across the country are already stretched thin trying to make ends meet,” said Jessica Arons, President and CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project (RHTP). “No-cost coverage of routine and emergency contraception is crucial to empowering women to make the best health and financial decisions for themselves and their families. When women can plan the timing and spacing of their pregnancies, they have better opportunities to complete their education, obtain employment, achieve economic security, and fully participate as equals in our society.”

RHTP will continue to promote policies to ensure that all women have meaningful coverage for a full spectrum of reproductive health services, regardless of where they live or work.

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Founded in 1982, the mission of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project is to advance the ability of every woman of any age to achieve full reproductive freedom with access to the safest, most effective, appropriate and acceptable technologies for ensuring her own health and controlling her fertility. To fulfill this mission, we seek to build consensus in support of an education, research and advocacy agenda for reproductive health and reproductive freedom. We seek consensus through a process of dialogue among diverse communities about technological developments and their global implications.