



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR

December 11, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Kriss Worthington, Dona Spring, Linda Maio and Betty Olds

Subject: Support for Prevention Through Affordable Access Act

RECOMMENDATION:

Support Senate Bill 2347/House Resolution 4054, the Prevention Through Affordable Access Act, which will fix a legislative glitch that has raised prescription contraception prices and ensure that more women have access to affordable birth control methods.

BACKGROUND:

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 inadvertently caused contraceptive prescription prices throughout the country to skyrocket. This dramatic increase has not only affected university health centers but also family-planning clinics and has made prescription contraception unaffordable for many women.

Because of the impact that these unnecessary increases have had on providing access to affordable birth control options, lawmakers from both parties have introduced the Prevention Through Affordable Access Act (Senate Bill 2347/House Resolution 4054 – Attachment 1)

This bill would fix the mistake caused by the Deficit Reduction Act and ensure that all women can continue to have access to affordable and safe methods of birth control without costing taxpayers a single cent.

Many individuals and organizations, including NARAL Pro Choice America have been lobbying the Congress to adopt the measure.

The City of Berkeley has in the past supported proposals to provide affordable health care for women, including prescription contraception. It is important that the City join NARAL Pro Choice America and others in expressing its support for Senate Bill 2346/House Resolution 4054 to ensure that women are not unfairly denied affordable birth control due to an inadvertent mistake.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

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