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It’s 2012. Are We Seriously Talking About Denying Women Birth Control?
Local College Students Take Part in Birth Control 4 Us Campaign

Students in the Civil Liberties and Public Policy program at Hampshire College joined college students across the country in support of the Obama administration’s decision to maintain access to no-copay birth control despite objections from certain religious leaders. They are calling on President Obama to stand strong despite attempts in Congress to expand religious exemptions that seek to deny women—particularly young women—access to birth control.

“Access to birth control is synonymous with access to health care,” says Lani Blechman, CLPP Conference and Student Programs Coordinator. “Some of our policy makers are afraid of young people having sex. But sex is a part of our lives—and we’re going to make sure that access to the education, information, and health care we need is also part of our lives.”

Mia Sullivan, Director of the Civil Liberties and Public Policy program, agrees. “The best way to help young people safeguard their own health and well-being is to provide them with knowledge about contraception and sexually transmitted disease, and the option to use contraceptives if they are sexually active. There are no studies that show we can improve health outcomes for young people if we hide this information from them, or if we take away access to contraceptives when they go to college. And most students do not have the resources to pay for contraception like the pill, unless it is part of their health insurance plan.”

When the vast majority of women in the U.S. say they have used birth control, the issue of contraceptives isn’t controversial, it’s common sense—but social conservatives would like people to believe otherwise. On Thursday, February 9, campus groups across the country officially launched “Birth Control 4 Us” at a press conference at the National Press Club, to ensure their voices and experiences are part of this debate. This massive coordinated effort encourages young people to express their support for contraceptive coverage by sending Valentines to government officials, reaching out to the White House and their Congressional representatives on Twitter using the hash tag #bc4us, and signing petitions.

This campaign is supported by organizations including Advocates for Youth, Catholics for Choice, Medical Students for Choice, Planned Parenthood, Advocates for Youth, Feminist Majority Foundation, Choice USA, and the Civil Liberties and Public Policy program.