

By Senator Rich

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 12, 2011, as "Birth Control Matters Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, access to family planning is directly linked to declines in maternal and infant mortality rates and improves health care outcomes and fosters wellness in women and families, and

WHEREAS, contraception enables women to better plan for pregnancy, and when women plan their pregnancies, they are more likely to seek prenatal care, improving their own health and the health of their children, and

WHEREAS, more than 60 percent of women between the ages of 15 and 44 are currently using a contraceptive method, and 98 percent of sexually experienced women have used contraception at some point in their lives, and

WHEREAS, on average, a woman spends 30 years of her life trying to avoid getting pregnant, and

WHEREAS, half of all the pregnancies in this nation are unintended, with the United States having one of the highest rates of unintended pregnancy among the world's most developed nations, with unintended pregnancies accounting for 69 percent of pregnancies among African American women, 54 percent of pregnancies among Latino women, and 40 percent of pregnancies among Caucasian women, and

WHEREAS, 71 percent of American voters support full coverage of the cost of prescription birth control, with no out-of-pocket costs to women, and

WHEREAS, publicly funded contraceptive services and

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30 supplies prevent nearly two million unintended pregnancies each  
31 year, and, in Florida, 65,500 unintended pregnancies were  
32 averted as a result of publically funded contraceptive services  
33 and supplies in 2008 alone, and

34 WHEREAS, in addition to the primary purpose of allowing  
35 women to plan and prepare for pregnancy, other health benefits  
36 of contraception include reduced risk of endometrial and ovarian  
37 cancers, ectopic pregnancy, iron deficiency anemia related to  
38 heavy menstruation, osteoporosis, ovarian cysts, and pelvic  
39 inflammatory disease, and

40 WHEREAS, the impact of copayments and other cost sharing as  
41 a barrier to accessing affordable contraception is reflected in  
42 the fact that, each year, half of all pregnancies in this nation  
43 are unintended, resulting in the United States consistently  
44 lagging behind other developed nations in maternal and infant  
45 mortality rankings, and

46 WHEREAS, for every dollar invested in contraception, \$3.74  
47 is saved in Medicaid expenditures for pregnancy-related care,  
48 and national studies find that for every dollar invested in  
49 family planning, \$24 is saved in health care costs, and

50 WHEREAS, the cost of prescription birth control is a major  
51 factor in a woman's decision to consistently use prescription  
52 birth control, with copayments for birth control pills typically  
53 ranging between \$15 and \$50 per month, and out-of-pocket  
54 expenses for other methods of prescription birth control even  
55 more costly, and

56 WHEREAS, research shows that more than a third of American  
57 women have struggled with the cost of prescription birth control  
58 at some point in their lives and, as a result, have used birth

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59 control inconsistently, with more than half of the women between  
60 the ages of 18 and 34 reporting a time when cost made it  
61 difficult to use birth control consistently, and

62 WHEREAS, 1,941,120 women in this state are in need of  
63 contraceptive services and supplies, and

64 WHEREAS, the American Medical Association, the American  
65 College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy  
66 of Family Physicians, the Society for Adolescent Health and  
67 Medicine, the American Public Health Association, and the March  
68 of Dimes support improved access to contraception, NOW,  
69 THEREFORE,

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71 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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73 That April 12, 2011, is recognized as "Birth Control  
74 Matters Day" in Florida.