

May 16, 2017

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Dear Working Group member,

We are extremely disappointed at the threats to health care access mobilizing in Congress. We remain staunch in our commitment to uplift the benefits of the Affordable Care Act and coverage of all contraceptive methods in addition to our work to make a birth control pill available over the counter in the United States.

We are excited to debut a [new infographic](#) that explains why we need an OTC birth control pill and the process to make it happen in the US. Also in this newsletter, we include information on the newly confirmed commissioner of the US Food and Drug Administration. Next, we are proud to highlight the most recent organizations to sign onto our [statement of purpose](#). Finally, please note that the deadline for our [request for proposals](#) is May 22 at 11:59pm ET.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Thank you,

Kate Grindlay
Project Director/Associate
Ibis Reproductive Health

Share our new infographic!

**OVER-THE-COUNTER (OTC) BIRTH CONTROL PILLS:
AN INTRODUCTION**

Please take a moment to check out [Free the Pill's infographic](#) that explains why OCs should be available OTC in the US, how it would happen, and how insurance could cover it. Please share this through your networks and on social media.

FDA commissioner confirmation

Scott Gottlieb was recently confirmed as the new commissioner of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the government body that has the authority to switch a drug from prescription-only to OTC. We hope the FDA will continue to put science and evidence front and center as it considers future applications to make OC products available OTC.

The following articles provide different perspectives on Commissioner Gottlieb:

- [Three things you should know about Scott Gottlieb - Trump's FDA commissioner nominee](#) (National Women's Health Network)
- [Scott Gottlieb and the credibility of U.S. therapeutics](#) (*New England Journal of Medicine*)
- [An FDA commissioner for the 21st century](#) (*New England Journal of Medicine*)

The *New England Journal of Medicine* articles are behind a pay wall; please let us know if you have trouble accessing them.

Statement of purpose sign-ons

We are proud of the broad range of organizations that have signed onto our [statement of purpose](#) and help us demonstrate the wide support that exists for making OCs available OTC in the United States. Below are the organizations that have signed on so far this year. We are particularly pleased to announce that we now have not only one, but two youth-focused medical societies signed onto our statement of purpose. [Email Mary](#) if you would like your organization to sign onto the statement of purpose.

[All-Options](#)

[American Nurses Association](#)

[Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses](#)

[Essential Access Health](#)

[North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology](#)

[Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine](#)

[Society for Family Planning](#)

[Society of General Internal Medicine](#)

[Training in Early Abortion for Comprehensive Healthcare](#)

[Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health](#)

RFP reminder

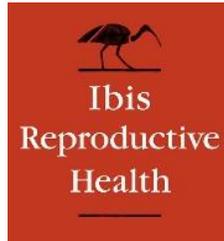
Applications for our [request for proposals](#) are due **May 22 at 11:59pm ET**. We look forward to reviewing your project proposals to strengthen our movement to make OCs available OTC in the US. Please email rfp@ibisreproductivehealth.org with any questions.

About us

The Oral Contraceptives (OCs) Over-the-Counter (OTC) Working Group is a coalition of reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations, nonprofit research and advocacy groups,

university-based researchers, and prominent clinicians who share a commitment to providing all women of reproductive age easier access to safe, effective, acceptable, and affordable contraceptives. The working group was established in 2004 to explore the potential of over-the-counter access to oral contraceptives to reduce disparities in reproductive health care access and outcomes, and to increase opportunities for women to access a safe, effective method of contraception, free of unnecessary control, as part of a healthy sexual and reproductive life.

The working group is coordinated by Ibis Reproductive Health.



www.ibisreproductivehealth.org

Contact us

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