



November 9, 2017

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Dear Working Group member,

Thank you to all of you who helped make our annual meeting in September a success! We appreciate everyone who participated in our most interactive meeting yet. See below for a recap of the meeting.

The Young People subcommittee is inviting working group members to join their calls as they work toward ensuring access to a future OTC OC without an age restriction. Related to these efforts, the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) has signed onto our Statement of Purpose. We are proud to have their support, along with the reproductive justice and provider associations that have also recently signed on.

We also want to show our appreciation to those of you who contributed to our World Contraception Day efforts, including 14 working group partners who shared Free the Pill graphics on their social media. We look forward to more opportunities to collaborate in the future.

Next, we want to congratulate those who worked on Oregon's Reproductive Health Equity Act that passed earlier this year and includes coverage of OTC contraceptive medications. We are excited to see efforts that continue to broaden insurance coverage for a future OTC OC.

Finally, we are pleased to share our new [Act page](#) that we hope you will share with your friends and colleagues.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions.

Thanks,

Kate

Kate Grindlay Kelly
Project Director/Associate
Ibis Reproductive Health

2017 OCs OTC Working Group Meeting



Rep. Ami Bera, center



Rep. Pramila Jayapal, right

Our annual OCs OTC Working Group meeting took place on September 27, 2017 in Washington, DC. It was our largest, most interactive working group meeting ever with approximately 120 participants. Topics covered during the meeting included an overview of the working group's history, a presentation from our pharmaceutical partner, HRA Pharma, and sessions on state policy, Free the Pill, insurance coverage, and ensuring access for young people. Participants also had the opportunity to map opportunities and threats on the state, local, and/or constituency level.

In addition, we hosted two elected officials, Congressperson Ami Bera (D-CA) and Congressperson Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) to speak on the importance of contraceptive access at our evening reception, held in conjunction with the American Society for Emergency Contraception and International Consortium for Emergency Contraception.

Young People subcommittee

The Young People subcommittee is inviting new members to join! This subcommittee ensures that young people's priorities and perspectives are incorporated into the working group's efforts to make a birth control pill available OTC for individuals of all ages. The time commitment involves a one hour call, every other month. Please note that individuals working in the following sectors are not eligible to participate in the subcommittee at this time: the

FDA, funding organizations, pharmaceutical company, for-profit organizations, and the media.

Their next call is on November 30 at 3-4pm Eastern.

If you are interested in joining this subcommittee, or would like to learn more about it, please email [Carmela](#).

Statement of purpose sign-ons

We are pleased to highlight the organizations that have signed onto our [statement of purpose](#) within the last month. Please help us demonstrate the wide support that exists for making OCs available OTC in the United States. [Email Mary](#) if you would like your organization to sign onto the statement of purpose.

[American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

[American Academy of PAs](#)

[Positive Women's Network - USA](#)

[Rez Condom Tour](#)

[Women with a Vision](#)

Media highlights -- World Contraception Day



We celebrated World Contraception Day on September 26, 2017. Thanks to all of you who participated to make our outreach a success. We could not have done this without your support!

The movement to make a birth control pill over the counter, featuring several working group members, was also featured in several media outlets:

Bustle: [What's the future of contraception? Over-the-counter birth control is finally a real possibility](#)

Daily Kos: [Lawmakers play political football with women's health, making it hard to obtain birth control pills](#)

Rewire: [Advocates set sights on OTC birth control pill on World Contraception Day](#)
Scary Mommy: [The future of birth control for teens is OTC contraceptives](#)
ThinkProgress: [Getting access to birth control pills remains frustratingly difficult in the US](#)

OTC coverage in Oregon

In August 2017, Oregon governor Kate Brown signed the Reproductive Health Equity Act ([HB 3391](#)) into law. This is one of the most comprehensive reproductive health laws in the US, establishing the right to safe and legal abortion, codifying no-cost reproductive health care, and prohibiting discrimination for accessing reproductive care on the basis of income, gender identity, and citizenship status. This law also ensures coverage of OTC contraceptive medications, including emergency contraception and a future OTC OC. Congratulations to All-Options, Catholics for Choice, Legal Voice, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, and our other partners who worked to pass this law!

Pro-Choice Coalition of Oregon: [Press release](#)
Washington Post: [Oregon approves sweeping bill expanding abortion access](#)

Free the Pill -- Act

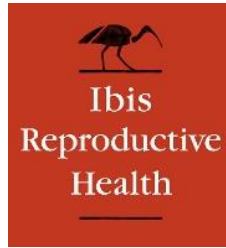
Free the Pill

Free the Pill recently debuted a new [Act page](#) where visitors are able to add their name to show support for making a birth control pill available over the counter in the US and receive occasional email updates. We hope to offer more features to expand this page including opportunities to purchase Free the Pill merchandise. Please add your name and share on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

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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