

June 4, 2018

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Dear Working Group member,

Our annual meeting is set for September 25, 2018 in Washington, DC. This year, in addition to our annual meeting, we will be hosting educational visits on the Hill in recognition of World Contraception Day on September 26. **Please complete [this registration request](#) by Friday, June 15 if you are interested in attending one or both of these events.**

In this newsletter, we are happy to share an update on pharmacists who are beginning to prescribe OCs in Idaho and provide information on Colorado's Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice Act. We also highlight a recent op-ed from working group partner, Denicia Cadena of [Young Women United](#). We hope you will read her great piece and share it widely.

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

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Durden
Communications and Outreach Manager
Ibis Reproductive Health

Annual meeting registration request

The 2018 OCs OTC Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 25 in Washington, DC, from approximately 9:00am-5:00pm. The meeting will focus on actions working group members can take to continue to build support for bringing a birth control pill over the counter. We hope to accommodate as many people as possible, but due to limited capacity, we cannot guarantee a space for everyone or for more than one individual per organization. We also hope that you can participate in educational visits with legislators on Capitol Hill to share information about Free the Pill and commemorate World Contraception Day on Wednesday, September 26 from approximately 9:00am-3:00pm. We will provide support, training, and materials so you have everything you need to participate. **If you are**

interested in attending either or both of these events, please complete [this registration request](#) by Friday, June 15. We will continue to accept registration requests as space becomes available.

We will also be holding a joint reception with the American Society for Emergency Contraception (ASEC) and the International Consortium on Emergency Contraception (ICEC) in the early evening on Monday, September 24. We will share more details as they become available.

Pharmacist-prescribing in Idaho

A few intrepid pharmacists have begun the process to prescribe OCs, the ring, patch, shot, and emergency contraception in Idaho at Bengal Pharmacy, an independent pharmacy chain with five locations and telemedicine operations serving the Idaho State University system. Their consumers are mostly students, but other local community members will have access as well. Pharmacists are authorized to prescribe under a collaborative practice agreement with a physician and have already received training. Participants will need to fill out a questionnaire before being prescribed contraception and will have to pay a fee.

Idaho State Journal: [ISU pharmacists to start prescribing hormonal contraception at Bengal Pharmacy](#)

Colorado's Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice Act

In early May, Colorado advocates introduced [a bill](#) to improve access to reproductive health services that also includes coverage of over-the-counter contraceptive drugs approved by the FDA. Colorado's session ended a week after introduction, but there are plans to reintroduce the bill in the next session.

Colorado Times Recorder: [Colorado Dems just introduced one of the most progressive reproductive health bills in the US](#)

Bill: [HB 18-1438](#)

Media highlights

OCs OTC Working Group policy/insurance subcommittee co-chair Denicia Cadena, Policy Director at [Young Women United](#), recently published an [op-ed in the Albuquerque Journal](#) on strategies to increase access to contraception, including OTC coverage.

"At Young Women United, we are training health care providers to approach contraceptive counseling in ways that ensure all people truly have decision-making power and are not coerced into using specific methods. Along with our partners, we are working to ensure insurance coverage for over-the-counter contraception, including condoms, and coverage for vasectomies because women shouldn't be the only ones responsible for family planning. We're also making sure that LGBTQ people are included and centered in all these efforts because their contraceptive needs are too often dismissed, and because sexual health isn't just about pregnancy prevention."

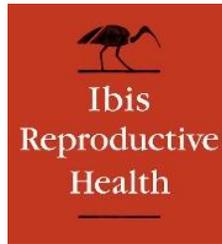
Signing onto the statement of purpose

Has your organization signed onto our [statement of purpose](#)? Does your organization send a newsletter where you could share information about our work and Free the Pill? Please help us demonstrate the broad support that exists for making OCs available OTC in the United States. [Email Mary](#) to let her know!

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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