

February 3, 2020

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Dear Working Group member,

Happy New Year! In 2020, we hope to further build our coalition of partners and cultivate more advocates to help spread the word about the Free the Pill campaign and our ultimate goal of increased contraceptive access for all. We want to show the world that the United States is next in line for having an over-the-counter birth control pill, and we are one year closer to making it a reality! Thank you for being part of this effort with us!

Our newsletter this month includes an update from Advocates for Youth and the #FreeThePill Youth Council. As part of the Free the Pill campaign, this youth-led effort wrapped its first semester of digital action in December and continues to train young spokespeople to speak out about their experiences with obtaining birth control and why an OTC pill is so important to them.

We also share our latest media highlights, which emphasize the importance of contraceptive access and the different ways people who want birth control can get the care they need. We are excited to uplift stories about the advances in pharmacist prescribing, online telehealth prescribers, and state contraceptive equity legislation, and will continue to support our partners and advocates in these initiatives throughout the year.

Finally, I wanted to share that I will be going on parental and sabbatical leave later this month and returning later in the summer. We have a great team who will share my responsibilities while I am out and whom you will be hearing from on these newsletters. Please contact [Jess Sanchez](#) if you have any questions, and she will direct you to the right team member. I look forward to reconnecting when I am back!

With appreciation for your continued support,



Kate Grindlay Kelly
Project Director/Associate
Ibis Reproductive Health

Advocates for Youth #FreeThePill Youth Council update

Our partners at Advocates for Youth hope you'll be seeing pictures of birth control pills on drug store shelves all over your social media. In fact, you can help by doing these two things!

√ First, [check out and share this thread](#) by one of their youth activists!

√ Second, join Helmi and 176 others in participating in the digital campaign by [signing up here](#). Superstar supporters can take the next step and share that signup link on your own social media just like Helmi did.

Media highlights

Kate Grindlay Kelly, Free the Pill Project Director at Ibis Reproductive Health, spoke with [Insider](#) about new ways to obtain prescription birth control, such as pharmacist prescribing and online telehealth prescribers, as well as access options that may be available for those without insurance coverage

Kate also spoke with [Truthout](#) about how the advances in contraceptive access on the state level have been a positive opportunity in light of the attacks on reproductive health care, and how everybody who wants to use a birth control pill should be able to access the care they need.

"We know that barriers that limit access to the pill disproportionately impact young people, low-income people, people of color and immigrants -- but anyone who wants to use birth control could benefit from easier access to getting it...[The] beneficiaries are really everybody who wants to use a birth control pill as their contraceptive method."

Quick call to action

Click to tweet:

[Are you someone who is:
Between the ages of 11-17?
Interested in the birth control pill?
Outraged that it's so hard to get?](#)

[Then join the Pill Study and get paid \\$75! Learn more here:
bit.ly/thepillstudy #FreeThePill #BirthControl](#)

Want birth control pills without a prescription?
Join our study and get paid \$75!



WHO: teens 11-17
WHERE: these cities near you!
HOW: bit.ly/thepillstudy

STUDY LOCATIONS:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| BIRMINGHAM, AL | ALBUQUERQUE, NM |
| HOMWOOD, AL | NEW YORK, NY |
| LONG BEACH, CA | SOUTH CHARLESTON, OH |
| DALTON, GA | LAFAYETTE HILL, PA |
| GRIFFIN, GA | PHILADELPHIA, PA |
| FRAMINGHAM, MA | CLARKSVILLE, TN |
| ROSEDALE, MD | HOUSTON, TX |
| ANDOVER, MN | MAPLETON, UT |
| ELK RIVER, MN | ENUMCLAW, WA |
| ST. FRANCIS, MN | SEATTLE, WA |
| ST. LOUIS PARK, MN | SNOHOMISH, WA |
| BURLINGTON, NC | |

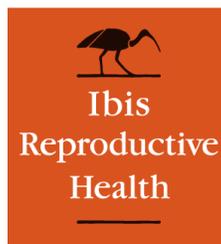
Statement of purpose

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 wide support that exists for making OCs available OTC in the United States. Email [Jess](#) 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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