

## **SB128 - FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES AMENDMENTS**

Sponsor: Senator Derek Kitchen

**This bill would require the Medicaid program to apply for an automatic, pre-approved federal waiver that extends family planning services to individuals who do not qualify for traditional Medicaid and who have an income 250% or below the Federal Poverty Level.**

**Background:** Utah has a coverage gap when it comes to accessing family planning services. Even with recent changes in Medicaid eligibility, there are still close to 80,000 Utahns in need of care. Exacerbating this issue is the fact that Utah currently does not receive any federal family planning funding from Title X.

### **Talking Points:**

- **Access to affordable birth control allows people to plan their lives and achieve their dreams.**
  - **The importance of affordable birth control access can't be overstated:** Many of the gains women have made since 1965 – in obtaining education, pursuing careers in increasing numbers, and moving closer to pay equity, and in the timing and spacing of children – are the direct result of increased access to birth control.
- **Contraceptive care is medical care.**
  - Beyond pregnancy prevention, contraceptive methods are used to treat a wide range of medical conditions that have a substantial impact on quality of life.
  - More than 99% of women aged 15–44 who have ever had sexual intercourse have used at least one contraceptive method.
  - Currently, about 65% of all women of reproductive age in the U.S. are using a contraceptive method.
  - Although using any method of contraception is more effective in preventing pregnancy than not using a method at all, every woman should have access to the full range of contraceptives to find the methods that best fit her needs.
- **Access to family planning leads to:**
  - Increased postsecondary education and employment
  - Increased earnings
  - More enduring marriages
  - Fewer people needing Medicaid services later
- **Funding contraceptive care is fiscally responsible.**
  - Family planning has a return on investment of **\$7.09** for every public dollar spent
  - Emergency Medicaid costs of complex births that require NICU care can be upwards of **\$100,000**.
  - Medicaid finances 48% of all births in the United States, at a cost approaching approximately **\$13,000 per birth**, whereas the annual cost of providing publicly funded contraception for a woman was only **\$239.23**.
  - Nationally, Medicaid spends **\$1.5 billion per year** on pregnancies and childbirth with complications related to substance use disorder.
  - All existing public family planning programs have been proven to be budget neutral and cost saving.

- **Investing in Utah families will save \$12.7 million in health care costs.**
- **In Utah, [providing contraception](#) to 10,900 Utahns through SB 128 would prevent:**
  - 2340 unintended pregnancies
  - 790 abortions
  - 450 miscarriages

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4. Kaiser Family Foundation, (2019) States That Have Expanded Eligibility for Coverage of Family Planning Services Under Medicaid <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/family-planning-services-waivers/>
5. Kaiser Family Foundation (2019) Financing Family Planning Services for Low Income Women: The Role of Public Programs <https://www.kff.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Issue-Brief-Financing-Family-Planning-Services-for-Low-income-Women-1.pdf>
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