

# Contraceptive Coverage in the Texas Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

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## **Texas is one of just two states in the nation that does not cover birth control in CHIP**

CHIP provides full medical coverage to the children of low to middle-income working families, covering teens through the month of their 19th birthday. Texas CHIP does not cover birth control for purposes of pregnancy prevention. While CHIP technically reimburses for contraception when indicated for medical issues such as endometriosis or anemia, the authorization process for this is complex and many clinicians report problems with billing or erroneously believe that no birth control is covered. This imposes costs and staff time burdens for medical practices and results in delays for patients accessing their medications.

**Of teens enrolled in CHIP in FY 18, almost 1,600 experienced a documented pregnancy by the next year.** In addition to leaving youth on CHIP at risk of unintended pregnancy, this coverage gap results in a cost burden to the state in two ways:

- By incurring Medicaid costs associated with unintended births to teens on CHIP; as well as coverage of their children in Medicaid;
- By losing out on federal matching funds, which would cover approximately 75% of the cost of contraception provided through CHIP. Currently, teens on CHIP are directed to the Family Planning program, which is 100% funded by state General Revenue.

The Legislative Budget Board has estimated that adding contraceptive coverage to CHIP would produce cost savings to the state that could become significant. **HB 141**, filed by Rep. Donna Howard, would add contraception as a covered benefit in CHIP. Parental consent would be required for minors to access birth control, and the program would not cover abortion-inducing drugs.

**The undersigned organizations strongly support adding contraception as a covered benefit in the Texas CHIP program and urge Texas Legislators to support HB 141.**

### **Signed,**

Texas Medical Association  
Texas Pediatric Society  
Texas Academy of Family Physicians  
Texas Association of Community Health Centers  
Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists -  
District XI (Texas)  
Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition  
Healthy Futures of Texas  
Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy  
Texans Care for Children  
Every Texan  
Every Body Texas  
Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.

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