

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
Office of the Speaker
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Boehner,

We write to express our concerns over your recent statements pledging to continue efforts to put employers between American women and their access to birth control. Specifically, we are asking that you abandon the promise you have made to bring legislation to the House floor similar to the Blunt amendment, which was defeated in the Senate last week, and which would turn the clock back on women's access to health care. Furthermore, we ask that you listen to the overwhelming outcry from American women who support access to contraception and drop all politically-charged efforts to deny them coverage.

Today, at a time when 99% of sexually active women in the U.S. have used birth control, its role in the lives of women and their families is hard to understate. Access to birth control is directly linked to declines in maternal and infant mortality, can reduce the risk of ovarian cancer, and is linked to overall good health outcomes. Nationwide, 1.5 million women use contraceptives only as treatment for serious medical conditions. And most importantly, access to birth control helps reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and abortions, a goal we all share.

That is why the recent Republican attacks on birth control access have been so eye-opening for American women. For most American women, the battle over contraception was settled a half century ago. Yet, over the course of the past month alone, women have watched as panels on birth control have been convened without women, a young woman that dared to speak out in defense of birth control was subjected to vile name-calling, and extreme legislation, like the Blunt amendment, has been pushed to deny access.

Women have had enough. As we have heard from countless women in our home states and here on Capitol Hill, they are tired of being targets for a political strategy that endangers their health care and they want it to stop. We hope that you can answer their calls, and ours. It's time for you to put an end to the attacks on women's health care and to work with the Senate to get back to the American people's top priority: creating jobs and boosting our economy.

As you may know, today is International Women's Day, a day celebrated each year to mark the political, social, and economic progress women have made. We ask that on this day you join with us in working to ensure that we build on the progress of the past, not reverse it.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Barbara Mikulski

Barbara Mikulski
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

Kay R. Hagan

Kay Hagan
United States Senator

Mary L. Landrieu

Mary Landrieu
United States Senator