



WI CAN News Digest

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State

[Laurel Rice and Marina Maes: Let Pharmacists Prescribe Birth Control Pills](#)

Wisconsin Assembly Bill 304 would improve access to many methods of birth control across the state by allowing pharmacists to prescribe and distribute certain types of hormonal contraceptives. The birth control methods this bill includes are safe, well studied and highly effective. It is also important to note that all the methods covered in this bill work by preventing pregnancy. None are abortifacients. **2.17.20**

[Republicans Try to Advance 'Personhood Amendment' that Democrats Say Will Limit Contraception](#)

A group of Republicans is seeking to change the state constitution to prevent courts from keeping abortion legal. Democrats contend the measure could outlaw some forms of birth control, including IUDs, by redefining life as beginning at fertilization. The tactic has split abortion opponents, with some saying the proposed constitutional amendment would hurt their long-term goal of outlawing abortion. As a result, the proposal faces little chance of getting through the Republican-controlled Legislature this spring. **2.13.20**

National

[Women Shouldn't Get a Bill For an IUD ... But Sometimes They Do](#)

Theoretically, private health plans cover birth control with no out-of-pocket costs to patients. But there are exceptions, which are particularly relevant to the 60 percent of women who get insurance through an employer. **2.7.20**

[We Now Know the 'True Damage' of Trump's Family Planning Restrictions](#)

Less than a year after the Trump administration finalized the domestic "gag rule," data shows it has reduced the Title X family planning network's capacity by nearly half and put contraceptive care for at least 1.6 million female patients at risk. **2.7.20**

[Trump Administration Gives Texas the Green Light to Limit Family Planning Services for Poor Women](#)

U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved a waiver submitted by Texas that will allow the state to exclude clinicians who provide abortion care from delivering family planning services covered by Medicaid. Medicaid rules require that patients in the federal fee-for-service program be able to access care from any qualified and willing provider. The federal government has never before allowed the provider-of-choice rule to be waived for a family planning program. Advocates warn that if other states also opt to exclude Planned Parenthood, it could have major implications for access to care across the country. **1.31.20**

[Employees Want Reproductive Care. Smart Firms Will Ensure They Get It](#)

A new report shows how much US workers value their reproductive care options, and how much employers stand to benefit, and save, by providing them. The report details how employers can better attract top talent, retain workers, and lower company costs simply by helping ensure employees have access to reproductive care and tools. **1.21.20**

[Supreme Court Takes Up Birth-Control Conscience Case](#)

The Supreme Court says it will consider whether employers should be allowed to opt out of providing contraceptive coverage to their workers because of moral or religious objections. At issue are Trump administration regulations allowing employers to claim such exemptions to the contraceptive insurance coverage mandate in the Affordable Care Act, which requires most employer-provided plans to include birth control coverage without a copay. Churches and other religious organizations already can opt out of the requirement, but the Trump administration has sought to expand that exemption to include a wider array of businesses and organizations. **1.17.20**

[HHS Proposes Ending Referral Requirement for Faith-Based Providers](#)

HHS on Thursday proposed reversing an Obama administration policy so faith-based health and social service providers receiving federal funds no longer would have to inform clients about services they don't provide for religious reasons and would not have to refer them to alternative providers. The rule also would clarify that HHS would not discriminate against faith-based organizations on applications for grants or awards on the basis of the organization's religious policies. That could affect Title X reproductive healthcare funding for pregnancy counseling groups that oppose contraception and abortion. **1.16.20**