

Prevention First Act of 2005 Summary

The Prevention First Act of 2005 is an omnibus family planning initiative that expands access to preventive health care services and education programs to help reduce unintended pregnancy, prevent the spread of infection with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and reduce the need for abortion.

Title I: Title X of the Public Health Service Act

Increases the authorization for the national family planning program (Title X of the Public Health Service Act) to \$643,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 and such sums as necessary in subsequent years. Title X was funded at \$288 million for fiscal year 2005. Title X clinic services prevent unintended pregnancies, reduce the number of abortions, lower rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV, and detect breast and cervical cancer at its earliest stages. The Title X statute prohibits the use of program funds to pay for abortions.

Title II: Family Planning State Empowerment

Allows states to expand Medicaid family planning services to women with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, without having to apply to the federal government for a waiver. The provision would give states the *option* to expand services; states would not be *required* to do so. Currently, twenty-one states have been granted Medicaid family planning waivers.

Title III: Equity in Prescription Insurance and Contraceptive Coverage

Requires private health plans to cover FDA-approved prescription contraceptives and related medical services to the same extent that they cover prescription drugs and other outpatient medical services. The provision seeks to establish parity for prescription contraception within the context of coverage already provided by health plans.

Title IV: Emergency Contraception Education and Information

Provides \$10 million in annual funding to implement important public education initiatives about emergency contraception (EC) and its benefits and uses to both women and medical providers.

Title V: Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies

Requires that hospitals receiving federal funds promptly provide EC upon patient request, in addition to medically, factually accurate and unbiased written and oral information about EC to women who survive sexual assault.

Title VI: Teenage Pregnancy Prevention

Provides \$20 million in annual funding for competitive grants to public and private entities to establish or expand teen pregnancy prevention programs.

Title VII: Accuracy of Contraceptive Information

Requires information provided about the use of contraception as part of any federally-funded program to be medically accurate and include information about the health benefits and failure rates of contraception. Currently, federally-funded abstinence-only programs are precluded from discussing contraception except to talk about failure rates. A recent study found that these programs distort public health data and misrepresent the effectiveness of contraception.