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THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN APPLAUDS THE INTRODUCTION OF THE HEAL ACT OF 2017

The Health Equity and Access under the Law (HEAL) for Immigrant Women and Families Act Will Ensure More Have Coverage for Contraception

(Washington, DC)—The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy applauds the introduction this week of The Health Equity and Access under the Law (HEAL) for Immigrant Women and Families Act of 2017. The HEAL Act would extend health insurance coverage through the ACA, Medicaid, and CHIP to all lawfully present immigrants in the United States.

“All women need coverage and access to the full range of contraceptive methods so that they have the power to decide if, when and under what circumstances to become pregnant,” said Ginny Ehrlich, CEO of The National Campaign. “Extending health coverage for lawfully present immigrants will increase the number of women that have access to the full range of birth control methods.”

Young women of color and young women living in poverty, including immigrant women, are more likely to experience an unplanned pregnancy than other young women. Among reproductive-age women with incomes below the federal poverty line (a group in which immigrant women are overrepresented), 53% of non-citizen immigrant women lack health insurance—nearly twice the proportion of U.S.-born women.

“Access and improved contraceptive use leads to fewer unplanned pregnancies, less abortion, and health care savings across the board,” Ehrlich added. “It also results in greater educational attainment and improved maternal and infant health—benefiting us all by creating stronger families and greater economic opportunities. These are societal benefits we can all support.”

About The National Campaign: The National Campaign is a private, non-partisan, non-profit organization that seeks to improve the lives and future prospects of children and families by preventing teen and unplanned pregnancy. Please visit us at www.TheNationalCampaign.org or follow along on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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