

Chicago Tribune

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Free contraception

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Earlier this week, the Institute of Medicine recommended the mandatory expansion of insurance coverage to female [contraception](#). This is a monumental step in achieving gender equity in insurance coverage and making healthcare more accessible.

[Illinois](#) is already one step ahead.

Under a 2003 law, Illinois insurance plans that cover other prescription drugs are required to also pick up the tab for female contraception. Illinois has long recognized the role of contraception in avoiding unintended pregnancies, reducing abortion rates, and controlling public medical costs.

Too many women forego birth control pills or other forms of contraception for financial reasons. Cost should not be an obstacle to using contraception and practicing safe health habits.

This basic contraception coverage is not only good health policy ☐ it is long overdue.

-- State Rep. [Sara Feigenholtz](#), D-Chicago