

Put Prevention First
Support HB 2221: The Birth Control Protection Act (BCPA)
Chief Patron: Del. Amundson

In 1965, the United States Supreme Court issued *Griswold v. Connecticut* which ruled that, for the first time, *married* couples had a constitutional right to use contraception. Later in 1972, Supreme Court granted *unmarried* couples the constitutional right to use birth control in the case *Eisenstadt v. Baird*. Due to these two landmark United States Supreme Court cases, birth control has become a routine part of the daily lives of millions of Americans for several decades. Still, the United States has one of the highest rates of unintended pregnancy in the industrialized world. Half of the six million pregnancies that occur among American women each year are unintended.¹

Why Support HB 2221?

- **The best way to prevent unintended pregnancies is to ensure that women and families have access to contraceptive services.**
- Contraception is basic health care used by most women and couples at some point in their lifetime.
- HB 2221 protects birth control from being subject to Virginia's abortion laws: mandatory 24-hour delay, state-scripted counseling, refusal protection, and parental consent.
- Prevention measures like birth control and family planning are common sense to the majority of Virginians

In Virginia

- In Virginia 10% (152,480 of the 1,590,210) of women of childbearing age become pregnant each year.²
- Virginia has the 32nd highest teenage pregnancy rate of any state.³
- In Virginia, 846,100 women are in need of contraceptive services and supplies. Of these, 371,640 (44%) women need publicly supported contraceptive services because they have incomes below 250% of the federal poverty level (251,710)⁴
- Since 2002, the Virginia legislature has introduced legislation every year to restrict access to emergency contraception – a backup method of birth control – including parental notification, prohibiting emergency contraception on college campuses, and pharmacist refusal protection.
- This legislative session, there is a bill to ban abortions. Instead of banning abortions – an idea that is out of touch with mainstream Virginians - we need to prevent them with common-sense prevention like birth control.

For more information on this Fact Sheet or other Planned Parenthood issues go to www.ppav.org or contact ppav@ppfa.org.

¹ Guttmacher Institute. 2006 Contraception Counts: Virginia.

² Ibid

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.