

## **MIKULSKI AMENDMENT IMPROVES COVERAGE OF WOMEN'S PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES AND LOWERS COST TO WOMEN**

### **WHAT THE MIKULSKI AMENDMENT DOES:**

- Would require all health plans to cover comprehensive women's preventive care and screenings
- And cover these recommended services at no cost to women

Preventive services covered would be based off of guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

All women, including Members of Congress and those in the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP)

- Would have access to the same baseline set of comprehensive preventive services at no cost

This is an essential protection for women's access to preventive health care not currently covered in other prevention sections of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

### **PROBLEM: Women are increasingly delaying or skipping preventive health care due to costs**

- More than half of women delay or avoid preventive care because of its cost
- Women of childbearing age already spend 68% more in out of pocket health care costs than men

### **SOLUTION: The prevention section of the bill must be amended to lower costs of women's preventive health care needs**

- Currently, the bill encourages the use of preventive services recommended by the US Preventive Services Task Force to be covered at a minimum.
  - Which do include some women's preventive services such as osteoporosis screenings
- Bill also gives HHS Secretary authority to require plans to cover additional preventive services
- **HOWEVER**, coverage of preventive services must take into account the unique health needs of women throughout their lifespan
- Amendment ensures coverage of women's preventive services based off of a separate set of guidelines
  - Developed by women's health experts that meet all of women's unique preventive health needs
- Amendment preserves the doctor-patient relationship and allows patients to consult with their doctors on what services are best for them
  - **Should a women under 50 decide to receive an annual mammogram, this amendment will cover it**

### **SERVICES MIKULSKI AMENDMENT COULD INCLUDE:**

- Cervical cancer screenings for a broad group of women, annual mammograms for women under 50, pregnancy and postpartum depression screenings, screenings for domestic violence, annual women's health screening, and, family planning services.

### **WHAT HAPPENS WITHOUT MIKULSKI AMENDMENT:**

The Mikulski Amendment is about making sure that our health care bill covers women's unique health care needs. Without this amendment, there would be:

- no guarantee that women under 50 would be covered for mammograms,
- no guarantee of an annual visit that would include screenings for heart disease,
- and no guarantee that women would have access to this preventive care at no cost.

The insurance companies have used every trick in the book to deny coverage to women. This amendment makes sure that the insurance companies must cover the basic services that women need.

**MIKULSKI AMENDMENT IS FULLY PAID FOR:**

- CBO scored amendment as costing \$940 million over 10 years
- Amendment is fully offset by surplus funds available in bill -- Does not rely on off-budget savings or CLASS act surplus as pay for

**ABORTION IS NOT INCLUDED:**

- Never has abortion been defined as a preventive service. This amendment clearly only covers preventive services