

Students for Life Action Scoring Alert

Dear members of the U.S. Senate,

On behalf of our more than 1,400 groups in all 50 states and our more than 200,000 trained activists and volunteers across the country, *Students for Life Action* calls on U.S. Senators to vote no on *The Right to Contraception Act*, as a vague and disingenuous effort.

Leader Schumer recently <u>announced</u> that he will file cloture on *The Right to Contraception Act* <u>S. 4381</u> on Wednesday, June 5th. *Students for Life Action* will be scoring against this concerning piece of legislation. As a reminder, this bill <u>passed</u> the House under then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi with all but eight Republicans voting against it. To learn why we oppose with this measure that deceptively seeks to force abortion forward while allegedly solving a problem that does not truly exist, consider the following.

Our concerns with Schumer's agenda include:

- The vague language that likely covers Chemical Abortion Pills, which end life in the womb rather than prevent conception.
- The off-label usage of drugs including the emergency "contraceptive" drug "ella" that can cause abortion weeks after conception as was detailed in amicus briefs in the Hobby Lobby Supreme Court case.
- The exemption from the bipartisan *Religious Freedom Restoration Act* (written by then Representative <u>Chuck Schumer</u>), which has never had such a carveout in the 30 years since it became law.
- The undermining of the <u>Church Amendment</u> by creating an *affirmative right* to contraception, preempting federal and state conscience laws, and instructing courts to liberally construe the provisions.
- The essentially *Planned Parenthood Funding for All Time* provision that prohibits any limitation or requirement that "expressly, effectively, implicitly, or as implemented singles out" the provision of health care providers who, or facilities in which, contraception or contraception-related information is provided. This would prohibit laws that exclude or limit funding or involvement in state or federal programs of an abortion vendor who also provides contraception like *Planned Parenthood*.

This legislation is deceiving, including the insinuation that there is a shortage of access to contraception. Frankly, after years of being forced to fund *Planned Parenthood*'s operation, in part because of their claims to be expert distributors of contraception, taxpayers should demand a refund.

Students for Life of America notes in an article <u>If You Can Get Starbucks & a Big Mac, You Can Get The Pill</u> ... "if we are talking about the money, consider that GoodRx reports a pack of pills can cost as little as \$22 for the month, which really does compare to our fast-food temptations."

In addition, "You don't need to be an obstetrician/gynecologist (OB-GYN) to prescribe The Pill. (And in fact there are almost 69,000 active family practice medical doctors, according to American Association of Medical Colleges.) But for this thought experiment, consider the Bureau of Labor statistic assessment of how many places you can get to an OB for a prescription.

"The BLS reports OBs in:

- o 14,580 physician offices.
- o 1,260 outpatient care centers.
- o 4,980 general medical/surgical hospitals.

"But no one is limited to traditional medical locations. For low-income individuals there are also Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) that right now number 17,890. Of courses we've all been told that women "need" Planned Parenthood for birth control, and there are nearly 600 of them, says the nation's number one abortion vendor. "Add in the fact that you don't need to go to any kind of office at all, because of telemedicine options. According to Zippia.com, 85 percent of Americans have smart phones, with the ability to get The Pill ordered by mail or to a local pharmacy. "There are 44,900 pharmacy and drug store businesses in the U.S. as of 2023, an increase of 3.5 % from 2022,' reports IBIS World.
"But if you get white coat syndrome, virtually or otherwise, and want to skip the stress of any consultation at all, you can. President Biden's FDA just approved an over-the-counter version of The Pill, meaning that it's as available as cold medicine.
"In comparison to all of that 'access,' there are merely 13,522 McDonald's franchises in the U.S., and 16,396 Starbucks locations.

"Access" to contraception represents a fake crisis and is often pushed as an attempt by those who do not respect Life in the womb to either replace the issue of abortion with a pill or to force a competing agenda. Due to the bill's vague language, it opened the doors up for extreme interpretations such as including Chemical Abortion Pills.

We urge each Senator to vote against this anti-life and dangerous piece of legislation. *Students for Life Action* again will be scoring against this bill where members' scores will be shared with our activists in all 50 states, and the pro-life community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Government Affairs Coordinator at sderetich@studentsforlifeaction.org.

Sincerely,

Kristan Hawkins President Students for Life Action & Students for Life of America