

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2012

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“A Smart and Very Reasonable Accommodation”

Statement of Debra L. Ness, President, National Partnership for Women & Families On Today’s White House Announcement of an Accommodation on the Affordable Care Act Requirement that Contraceptive Coverage be Available to Women

“The accommodation the administration offered this morning is a smart and very reasonable move that will protect women’s health and also address the concerns raised by opponents of contraception. We commend President Obama for standing with women in the face of the furious and baseless attacks on women’s access to contraceptive coverage over the last week.

Now religiously-affiliated institutions that serve the public and employ workers of different faiths will have a special accommodation – but insurers will fill the gap and women have the contraceptive coverage they need. That is what matters most. We intend to monitor implementation carefully to be sure there is no gap in contraceptive coverage for any woman, no matter where she works.

Everyone who cares about women’s health should be pleased with this accommodation, and should get behind the new rule.

Sadly, the threat to women’s contraceptive cover is not over. We strongly urge Senators Rubio and Manchin to withdraw their legislation. If they do not, it should be soundly defeated in both houses.

Birth control is basic health care for women. It’s time to focus on improving women’s health and ensuring that health reform achieves its promise for all of us.”

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The National Partnership is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy group dedicated to promoting access to quality health care, fairness in the workplace, and policies that help women and men meet the dual demands of work and family.