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State of Connecticut
SENATE

CHIEF DEPUTY REPUBLICAN LEADER

RANKING MEMBER
EXEC. & LEGIS. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

August 10, 2023

Dear Senator Blumenthal,

The recent Food and Drug Administration [approval](#) of the Opill, a progestin-only birth control pill and the first over-the-counter daily oral contraceptive, was positive news for all of us who prioritize reproductive health policies.

However, I am concerned about the affordability - and therefore the accessibility - of the Opill.

Please continue to press the Opill's manufacturer to offer a concrete and an affordable price range. An over-the-counter birth control pill must be affordable for all.

In addition, while prescription birth control pills are covered under the Affordable Care Act, over-the-counter versions may **not** be covered by insurance once they are available. Insurance providers should be required to cover all forms of birth control, even without a prescription.

I believe all birth control pills should be over the counter and affordable as they are in Europe. Please continue to press to encourage the FDA to work with manufacturers to ensure this for all women. Please also continue your efforts to reduce the cost of the Opill so that people without insurance can have access without having to pay out of pocket.

As you know, I serve as Ranking Senator on the Public Health Committee. This year, I introduced and co-sponsored a new state law which allows trained pharmacists to prescribe birth control. The law will expand access to reproductive health care, give women more options, reduce costs, and improve health outcomes.

Women's health isn't a partisan issue; it's a moral issue. Reproductive health should be universally accessible. Please continue pushing to lower the cost of the first over the counter birth control pill in the U.S. so that broad distribution can begin as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Somers".

Heather Somers
State Senate, 18th District