

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 209**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 6, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Mosquera

SYNOPSIS

Condemns federal rules allowing certain employers to deny employees health insurance coverage for contraception based on religious or moral objections.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/14/2019)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** condemning federal rules allowing
2 certain employers to deny employees health insurance coverage
3 for contraception.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, On November 7, 2018, the United States Departments of
6 Health and Human Services, Treasury, and Labor announced two
7 final rules that provide “conscience protections” to employers and
8 individuals who have either a religious or a moral objection to
9 health insurance that covers contraceptive methods; and

10 **WHEREAS**, The rules allow employers with religious or moral
11 objections to deny hundreds of thousands of employees and their
12 dependents contraceptive coverage, which is otherwise required
13 under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“ACA”); and

14 **WHEREAS**, Specifically, these rules broaden exemptions from the
15 ACA’s requirement that contraception be covered without
16 consumer cost sharing such that many non-governmental
17 employers, nonprofits, for-profits, non-governmental institutions of
18 higher education, and insurers, can deny contraception coverage
19 based on religious or moral objections; and

20 **WHEREAS**, The ACA’s contraception coverage mandate has made
21 contraceptive methods accessible and affordable to millions of
22 women and has significantly reduced out-of-pocket spending; and

23 **WHEREAS**, According to the National Women’s Law Center, nearly
24 62.8 million women across the country, 1.9 million of whom are
25 New Jersey residents, currently have insurance coverage of birth
26 control, with no out-of-pocket costs; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Research has shown that, as a result of the ACA’s
28 contraception coverage mandate, millions of American women
29 have saved a total of at least \$1.4 billion in out-of-pocket health
30 care costs each year, with an average of over \$250 in annual
31 savings per contraceptive user; and

32 **WHEREAS**, In addition to reducing risks of unintended pregnancies,
33 adverse pregnancy outcomes, and health complications associated
34 with pregnancy, contraception can also be prescribed to treat
35 menstrual disorders, acne, pelvic pain, and several other medical
36 conditions; and

37 **WHEREAS**, The current administration is moving forward with
38 implementation of these rules, despite two federal court rulings
39 issuing preliminary injunctions blocking the enforcement of
40 essentially identical interim rules released in October 2017; and

41 **WHEREAS**, Restricting access to contraception through these
42 regulations threatens the health, economic well-being, and financial
43 empowerment of women in New Jersey and across the United
44 States; now, therefore,

45
46 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
47 Jersey (the Senate concurring):

