

**2009 Prevention First Agenda  
Prevention First = Healthy Families**

Improving access to preventive health care and supporting healthy families should be a shared goal in Missouri. If we are committed to reducing the number of unintended pregnancies and abortions in Missouri, we must get to the root of the problem through prevention by: ensuring reliable sexual and reproductive health education in schools and communities; increasing access to family planning services; and helping to plan for healthy pregnancies and healthy families.

**According to a recent poll conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates:**

- **86% of Missourians support teaching comprehensive sex education in schools**
- **65% of Missourians believe all pharmacies should be required to dispense over-the-counter and prescription contraception to patients without discrimination or delay**
- **59% of Missourians want legislators to focus on preventing unintended pregnancy instead of placing additional restrictions on abortion**

**2009 PREVENTION FIRST ACT (PFA)**

The Prevention First Act is a collection of common sense prevention policies that encourage and facilitate responsible behavior. It will be introduced by Rep. Beth Low D – 39 and Sen. Joan Bray D-24. **The Prevention First Act** includes:

**Comprehensive Sex Education:** Repeals the restrictive provisions around sex education passed last year in HB 1055. This bill would once again allow trained sex education professionals to be invited into public schools and would require voluntary sex education courses to include information on both abstinence and the benefits of contraception.

**Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies:** Ensures that victims of sexual assault who present at an emergency room are provided with information about, and access to emergency birth control such as Plan B. Plan B is approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a contraceptive; if the pregnancy is already established, the medication does not work.

**Birth Control Protection:** Prohibits any government interference in a woman's access to FDA approved contraceptive drugs and devices in Missouri.

**Women's Health Services:** Restores the highly successful, general revenue funded program that served 30,000 low income women annually with well woman services. Every \$1 spent on prevention programs saves the state \$3 in pregnancy related medical costs.

**Patient Protection:** Requires pharmacies to make sure all legal prescriptions or lawful requests for approved over-the counter-birth control and emergency birth control are dispensed in a timely manner and without undue hardship to the patient.

**Expedited Partner Therapy:** Allows physicians to dispense and prescribe medications for partners of persons diagnosed with certain sexually transmitted diseases without an office visit in order to curb the growing rate of sexually transmitted infections.

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