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House of Representatives
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August 7, 2023

Katie Merritt
Director of Policy and Planning
Office of Insurance Commissioner
1326 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Director Merritt:

I write today to urge you to add expanded coverage of contraceptives to Pennsylvania's essential health benefits (EHB) package.

Under the Affordable Care Act, individual and small group (50 or fewer employees) health insurance policies must cover the ten categories of EHBs. Each state can select a benchmark plan to describe what specific benefits must be included in each EHB category.

Pennsylvania is behind the times. We have not updated our benchmark plan since 2017. The Insurance Department's reevaluation of Pennsylvania's EHB package shows the department's commitment to ensuring consumers get the care they need, when they need it.

Many Pennsylvanians need expanded access to contraceptives. Contraceptives are important medications that treat conditions like endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome in addition to preventing pregnancy. That's why I introduced House Bill 1140 – because we need to protect access in state law and expand what's currently available. But the legislative process takes time. The Insurance Department, by updating Pennsylvania's EHB package, can ensure expanded coverage of contraceptives are included in individual and small group policies.

Thus, I urge you to ensure expanded coverage of contraceptives, as recommended in my House Bill 1140, is included in Pennsylvania's updated EHB package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Krueger".

Leanne Krueger
State Representative
161st Legislative District