

Women Speak FOR THEMSELVES

What To Say And How To Say It:

It's Pro-Woman to Point Out That Contraception Has Risks

Lately women who have [publicly questioned or criticized contraception](#) have taken serious heat. How should you respond to the media narrative? Here are some facts and talking points to consider as you speak for yourself and share the truth about what women really need:

1. I'm glad that someone is finally questioning whether [drugs and devices with so many side and health effects](#) are "appropriate medical care" for women. Why should the federal government continue to use its considerable legal and funding authority to promote contraception, without at least educating women about all the known risks?
2. Partnering with the states, the government [spends](#) billions of dollars a year in programs that promote birth control, including Title X's Family Planning Program, Medicaid, Medicare, and the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program. **But these billions of dollars may be making the problems they try to solve—nonmarital and unintended pregnancy—worse!** Experts—including our current Federal Reserve chair [Janet Yellen](#)—have [debated](#) whether contraception has tilted the markets for dating and relationships against women, and encouraged risky behavior. The meteoric rise in non-marital and unintended births over the past several decades directly followed the legalization and widespread availability of contraception and abortion.
3. The government has admitted for years **that hormonal birth control often has high failure rates and negative effects on women's health and well-being.** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) reports that the [Pill's failure rate](#) ranges from 9-30%.¹ The NIH also reports that [40% of women are dissatisfied](#) with their birth control method for a number of reasons including side- and health-effects², which may be related to the fact that "hormonal contraceptives are associated with adverse events,"³ especially for [smokers](#) (over 13% of American women⁴) and women who are [obese](#) (40%⁵).

¹ Department of Health and Human Services, Female Contraceptive Development Program (U01), <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-14-024.html>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ The Centers for Disease Control, Current Cigarette Smoking Among Adults in the United States, https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/adult_data/cig_smoking/.

4. Some methods of birth control have abortifacient potential. [Pharmaceutical companies](#)⁶ and [federal medical authorities](#)⁷ have both repeatedly acknowledged the abortifacient possibilities of some drugs and devices labeled “contraceptives.” Some birth control drugs and devices work to ensure that a fertilized egg will be denied implantation in his or her mother’s womb—the time *after* many secular medical textbooks, doctors, and other respected authorities say a new human life (with its own completely unique DNA) has been created. Women deserve to know the difference between a drug or device which acts as a true “contraceptive” versus one that aborts a pregnancy. In the famous words of feminist Germaine Greer, from her book, *The Whole Woman*: “Whether you feel that the creation and wastage of so many embryos is an important issue or not, you must see that the cynical deception of millions of women by selling abortifacients as if they were contraceptives is incompatible with the respect due to women as human beings.”

5. As a woman, I’m grateful that the complexities and downsides of our federal contraception policies are finally getting media attention. Have you noticed that it is usually women who are leading the charge?

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⁵ The Journal of the American Medical Assn. Network, Trends in Obesity Among Adults in the United States, <http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2526639>.

⁶ Plan B, One-Step, Important Information and Plan B, One-Step, <http://www.planbonestep.com/FAQ.aspx>.

⁷ Food and Drug Administration, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Approved Labeling, Plan B (Levonorgestrel), https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/nda/2006/021045s011_Plan_B_PRNTLBL.pdf; Food and Drug Administration, Prescribing Information, Ella, https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2010/022474s000lbl.pdf.