

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 404

Expressing the sense of the Congress concerning contraceptives for women.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2006

Mrs. LOWEY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred  
to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress concerning  
contraceptives for women.

Whereas the United States has one of the highest rates of  
abortion in the industrialized world, with American  
women experiencing 1.3 million abortions every year;

Whereas behind almost every abortion in the United States  
is an unintended pregnancy, therefore, efforts to reduce  
unintended pregnancy will reduce the number of abor-  
tions;

Whereas the most effective way to prevent unintended preg-  
nancy is to improve access to safe, affordable, effective  
contraceptive methods and to provide medically accurate  
information about how to use such methods;

Whereas contraceptive use has declined slightly among all  
women and precipitously among low-income women and,

as a result, unplanned pregnancy rates have risen among low-income women by 30 percent;

Whereas a low-income woman today is 4 times as likely to have an unintended pregnancy and more than 4 times as likely to have an abortion as her higher-income counterpart;

Whereas abortion rates have increased among low-income women, even as they have continued to decrease among more affluent women;

Whereas the United States has established as a public health goal for the nation to reduce the proportion of pregnancies that are unintended by 40 percent by 2010, and achieving this goal would reduce the annual number of abortions from 1,300,000 to 780,000; and

Whereas the United States has an impressive capacity for marshaling the resources necessary to tackle pressing public health problems such as smoking, and the same should be done for the problem of unintended pregnancy by ensuring universal access to effective and affordable contraception: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3           (1) supports a major, national campaign to help  
4       all women, regardless of income, avoid unintended  
5       pregnancy and abortion through access to contracep-  
6       tion; and

7           (2) supports programs and policies that make it  
8       easier for all women not only to obtain contracep-

- 1 tives but also to use them consistently and correctly
- 2 over time.

