

To: Public Health and Social Services Committee

From: Councillor Bateman

Subject: Motion for Consideration respecting Access to Birth Control

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WHEREAS universal coverage of contraception enables people to freely decide if or when to become parents and how many children to have, and can also increase gender equality, improve health outcomes, and save on health care costs;

WHEREAS timely access to effective contraception directly influences the rate of unintended pregnancies;

WHEREAS it is estimated that 30-40% of all pregnancies in Canada are unintended with those of lower socioeconomic status being one of the leading vulnerable groups impacted;

WHEREAS Abortion Clinics in Ontario are not fully funded and in contrast to the Health Canada Act by Canada Health which instructed all Provincial and Territory Health Ministers to fully fund private clinics doing medical required procedures, making user fees illegal.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to send a letter of advocacy on behalf of the Board of Health, to the Provincial government encouraging them to cover the cost of birth control for all Ontario residents; and
2. That a copy of the letter **BE CIRCULATED** to aPHa, other appropriate partners, and local Members of Provincial Parliament and Members of Parliament.