

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14TH DISTRICT

Jacobs Press Release

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SEN. JACOBS JOINS LEGISLATORS TO ANNOUNCE EFFORT TO REDUCE UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES, STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

Bill package to expand women's access to affordable family planning

LANSING – Michigan State Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) joined legislators yesterday to announce a new bill package to expand access to affordable family planning and reproductive health information. Sen. Jacobs, along with Sen. Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park), is the sponsor of Senate Bill 42, a part of the package which would expand health care prescription coverage to include certain contraceptives.

“Statistics regarding unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases are growing more and more alarming, and this is a comprehensive plan to try to stem those numbers from all angles,” Sen. Jacobs said. “We need to increase and improve the health information our young people receive, promoting abstinence while also educating them on all reproductive health, and we should make sure all women have access to affordable family planning.”

Sen. Jacobs and members of the House and Senate are introducing a multi-bill Prevention Package that will:

- Give women affordable access to birth control;
- Ensure that young people receive medically accurate, abstinence-plus sex education;
- Guarantee that women who survive rape or sexual assault are offered information about, and access to, emergency contraception.

Half of all pregnancies are unintended, and a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that one in four teen girls has a sexually transmitted disease. The only effective way to change those bleak statistics is with prevention. Studies show that the majority of Americans want these policies, with 86% saying they support access to birth control, and for every dollar spent on family planning services, three dollars are saved on social services.

“This is not a pro-choice package of bills, it is a proactive package of bills,” said Jacobs.

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