



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**GEORGETOWN LAW STUDENTS FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR NO CO-PAY CONTRACEPTION**

Today at the National Press Club, Georgetown LSRJ representatives stood with fellow students from other Catholic schools as members of Catholic Students for Women's Health to express gratitude and support for HHS's recent contraception coverage decision.

Chapter member and past President Sandra Fluke, Georgetown Law Class of 2012, stated: *At Georgetown Law, I and other women have struggled with a lack of contraceptive coverage that causes financial, medical, and emotional burdens. Unable to afford the \$3,000 this costs students over their law school tenure, some women have gone without contraception, risking pregnancy and avoidable abortions. Others have spent hours in clinics, missing class, trying to find affordable birth control. In the worst cases, women who needed this medication for other medical reasons have suffered dire consequences. Just one example of many is a friend of mine. Her inability to access these prescriptions caused the loss of her ovary. These burdens are not shared by our male student colleagues.*

*When we hear conservative Catholic organizations ask what we expected when we enrolled at a Catholic school, we can only answer that we expected women to be treated equally, to have their medical needs met, to not have our school create untenable burdens that impede our academic success. We expected that when we told our universities of the problems this policy created for the student body, they would help us. **We expected that when 94% of students opposed the policy, the university would respect our choices regarding insurance students pay for unsubsidized by the university.** We did not expect that the university would continue to refuse female students this critical medical care. We did not expect that women would be told in the national media that if we wanted comprehensive insurance that met our needs, not just those of male students, we should have gone to school elsewhere.*

***And we didn't expect to hear claims of religious sanctity when Georgetown provides subsidized health insurance covering contraception to all of its employees and staff, refusing it only to students. And we didn't expect to be told that this regulation was an affront to religious liberty when 77% of the Jesuit and Catholic law schools in the top 100 law schools already provide contraceptive coverage to their student population.** We didn't expect that the voices of conservative, wealthy donors would be more important to our universities than ours, the voices of students.*

The recently announced HHS decision requires all FDA-approved contraceptives to be covered by employer and student insurance without cost sharing or deductibles. It mirrors the contraceptive equity laws in 28 states, and it contains an appropriate exemption for religious institutions whose insurance plans primarily cover religious adherents.

A chapter of Law Students for Reproductive Justice, Georgetown LSRJ advocates for legal and social recognition of comprehensive reproductive healthcare access in student insurance, including coverage of contraceptives, and other health care services that guarantee reproductive freedom.

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