

1 **RESOLUTION NO. \*\*\* (New York State E)**

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3 **Make Oral Contraceptive Pills Available without Prescription**

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5 Introduced by the New York State Chapter

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7 Referred to the Reference Committee on \*\*\*

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10 WHEREAS, Unintended pregnancy remains a major public health problem in the  
11 United States, and approximately half of those occur in women who report using  
12 contraception at the time of conception, and

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14 WHEREAS, access and cost issues are common reasons why women either do not  
15 use contraception or have gaps in use, and

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17 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Family Physicians has previously endorsed  
18 contraceptive access as an important public health measure, including the resolution  
19 "Remove Barriers to Over-the-Counter Contraception for Low Income Women" aimed  
20 at urging insurers and Medicaid to cover the range of the U.S. Food and Drug  
21 Administration (FDA) approved contraceptive methods and supplies sold over-the-  
22 counter (OTC) and not to require a prescription for such coverage, and

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24 WHEREAS, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends  
25 that oral contraceptive pills (OCPs) should be available over-the-counter (2012), and  
26 that weighing the risks versus the benefits based on currently available data, women  
27 should self-screen for most contraindications to OCPs using checklists, and

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29 WHEREAS, screening for cervical cancer or STIs is not medically required to provide  
30 hormonal contraception, and was not significantly decreased by OTC contraceptive  
31 use, and

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33 WHEREAS, continuation rates of OCPs are higher in women who are provided with  
34 multiple pill packs at one time, and

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36 WHEREAS, many women choose their method of birth control specifically because it  
37 does not require a prescription, and current OTC products have much lower efficacy,  
38 and

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40 WHEREAS, neither safety nor efficacy concerns about OCPs have been found to  
41 justify their prescription status, and

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43 WHEREAS, surveys indicate that most women in the U.S., as well as pharmacists,  
44 look favorably upon the prospect of accessing OCPs without a prescription, and

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46 WHEREAS, this recommendation could enhance prospects for a pharmaceutical  
47 company approaching the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to make one or  
48 more OCP formulations available to women without a prescription, now, therefore, be it

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50 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians write to the U.S. Food  
51 and Drug Administration (FDA) to urge that oral contraceptive pills (OCPs) be made  
52 available without a prescription and with coverage by the Centers for Medicare and  
53 Medicaid Services and commercial insurers, and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians endorse making oral  
2 contraceptive pills (OCPs) available without a prescription, with coverage by insurers  
3 and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.  
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5 (Received 07/12/13)