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SENATE RESOLUTION #2888

TITLE: ASUW Reproductive Health Advocacy and Resource Guide

DATE INTRODUCED: April 18, 2023

AUTHORS: President Brown, Director of Wellness Malles

SPONSORS: Senators Stadler and Willis

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible; and,
3. WHEREAS, over 6,000 females attend the University of Wyoming;and,
4. WHEREAS pregnancy impacts female students of all ages, races and education levels;
5. and,
6. WHEREAS, the overturn of the Roe V. Wade ruling allows state's individual discretion
7. to determine their own abortion laws; and,
8. WHEREAS, as a result of the ruling, Wyoming passed the "trigger ban" creating a
9. change in the landscape of accurate reproductive health resources; and,
10. WHEREAS because of these new laws, reproductive health has become an important
11. issue at the University of Wyoming; and,
12. WHEREAS, promoting reproductive health resources is paramount and critical for all
13. students; and,
14. WHEREAS, this fall ASUW sought to establish a special project to fund pregnancy tests,
15. emergency contraception, and resource guide stickers; and,
16. WHEREAS, it was determined under current UW Regulations and stipulations on
17. student fee dollars, emergency contraception would be unable to purchase via these
18. funds; and,
19. WHEREAS, the ASUW Executive Branch then realigned funds to purchase pregnancy

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20. tests and the resource guide stickers; and,
21. WHEREAS, ASUW currently supplies the Dean of Students, ASUW Food Cabinet, and
22. the University of Wyoming's Food Share Pantry with pregnancy test strips; and,
23. WHEREAS, ASUW has created a reproductive health living resource guide which is
24. available via QR code; and,
25. WHEREAS, ASUW continues their efforts to keep all menstrual product dispensers
26. filled and up to date with other reproductive resources; and,
27. WHEREAS, an ASUW executive, such as the Director of Wellness, or another relevant
28. executive appointment by the ASUW President shall be in responsible of accessing
29. stock and ensuring these resources are funded and available.
30. THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Associated Students of the University of
31. Wyoming (ASUW) Student Government, ASUW will continue to advocate for
32. reproductive health on campus by continuing to purchase pregnancy test strips and
33. distribute them to the locations stated and others across campus; and,
34. THEREFORE, be it further resolved ASUW will continue the upkeep of the
35. reproductive health resource guide by continually checking the reproductive facts and
36. resources, and by continually checking the expiration of the QR code and ultimately
37. renewing it once it has expired
38. THEREFORE, be it further resolved ASUW will be in constant connection with UW
39. Operations in making sure that all menstrual product dispensers on campus are filled and
40. utilized as a place for reproductive resources; and,
41. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that ASUW will seek out
42. other opportunities to create awareness about reproductive health and the importance of

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- 43. creating an environment where all students have adequate access to reproductive health
- 44. care products and are able to exercise bodily autonomy.

Referred to: ___Adocacy, Diversity, and Policy; Outreach, Programming, and Elections

**Date of Passage: April 25th, 2023 Signed: 
(ASUW Chairperson)**

“Being enacted on April 25th, 2023, I do hereby sign my name hereto

**and approve this Senate action.” 
ASUW President**

Addendum A

Reproductive Health Resource Guide



* campus resources and support
drink protection products * IUDs
* condoms * birth control *
affordable health care * & more

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Addendum B

ASUW-Student Health Services Special Projects Funding Proposal

Background and Cause for Concern

Pregnancy on college campuses impacts female students of all ages, races, and educational levels. In 1973, the Supreme Court’s ruling in Roe v. Wade legalized abortion nationwide by declaring that a women’s right to an abortion was implicit to their right of privacy protected by the 14th Amendment. However, times have changed and the ruling about legal abortions is overturned. The overturn of this ruling gives states’ the individual discretion to determine their own abortion laws without infringing on precedent set by Roe v. Wade years prior.

After the passage of a “trigger ban” abortion law in the Wyoming state legislature, the overturn of Roe v. Wade completely banned abortion in the state, with few exceptions. Currently, a court ruling from a Wyoming District judge has suspended the ban while a lawsuit explores the constitutionality of the ban. [1] The landscape of abortion access and reproductive health is rapidly changing, making it difficult to navigate resources and find accurate information. With these increased laws on abortion throughout the country, and specifically Wyoming, it is beneficial that we provide resources for those who are at risk of becoming pregnant. The University of Wyoming reports that there are currently 6,335 female students enrolled (over half of the total student population), any number of which could be sexually active, making this uncertainty about abortion access incredibly relevant for this campus. [2]

Access to emergency contraception and pregnancy tests can greatly reduce the uncertainty that students might be experiencing while allowing them more information over healthcare choices. In regards to these healthcare options, home pregnancy tests can detect pregnancy as early as eleven days after conception. Pregnancy tests can be purchased at a large variety of stores, and can cost anywhere from \$1.00 to \$15.00 in the marketplace.

Emergency contraception, commonly known as Plan B, uses a high dose of hormones that breaks the hormonal cycle that is needed for ovulation to occur. [3] Plan B is not an “abortion pill”, nor does it cause miscarriages; it only prevents ovulation and thus fertilization. [4] Plan B is available over the counter and generally costs \$30.00 to \$40.00 per dose. It can be used up to 72 hours after unprotected sex. When taken within this time frame, Plan B prevents 95% of pregnancies. [5] There are other types of emergency contraception, but Plan B is the focus of this project proposal.

The need for increased access to free pregnancy tests and emergency contraception is particularly important when the following statistics are taken into account:

1	A recent study found that cost is a key barrier for low-income women in accessing birth control and that if not for that barrier, 39% of low-income women who don’t currently use any birth control methods would want to begin using contraception. [6]
2	Contraceptive/birth control use among women who are sexually active and not seeking pregnancy is lowest among the 15-24 age group. [7]
3	According to the Guttmacher Institute, 60% of women who receive abortions are in their 20s. [8]
4	Young adult women generally become aware that they are pregnant at a later date compared to women in other age groups. [9] Young adult women also report cost-related barriers as a reason for the delay in taking a pregnancy test. [10]
5	81% of students report that having an unplanned pregnancy during college makes it harder to accomplish their goals. [11]
6	61% of women who have children after enrolling in community college do not complete their education. [12]

A primary goal of the University of Wyoming, ASUW, and higher education in general is to support students in earning a degree so that they can achieve their professional and personal goals. Thus, supporting students so they are able to complete their education while also having access to healthcare should also be a top priority. Providing free pregnancy tests and emergency contraception to students through UW Student Health Service pharmacy can eliminate major obstacles to graduation and provide students with more options when it comes to making life-changing decisions. Additionally, ASUW has the opportunity to make a long-lasting impact for students who utilize this resource, allowing them to complete their degree and choose when to start a family. Additionally,

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these resources will allow students to learn about their pregnancy earlier, which can provide a larger window of time for them to make informed decisions with a healthcare provider.

Request and Plan of Action

Acquire funding from ASUW Special Projects to provide for the cost of pregnancy tests, Plan B, and informational stickers to support low-income female students in their access to healthcare. In preparation for this proposal, students from ASUW has met with administrators and staff at Student Health Services (SHS) to coordinate logistics and create the most informed proposal possible.

The UW Student Health Services pharmacy will distribute the Plan B to students who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford the expense. The UW SHS pharmacy already distributes Plan B and other over-the-counter medications just like other off-campus pharmacies. The purchased pregnancy tests will be distributed in a similar manner. The aforementioned informational stickers will be distributed across campus by ASUW in order to increase awareness and access to accurate information about resources UW students can utilize related to reproductive health and pregnancy. Addendum A includes additional information about the informational stickers.

Data about usage of these products will be collected by the pharmacy and provided to ASUW. This project will serve as a pilot program for the subsidization of pregnancy tests and Plan B at Student Health Service through the ASUW Special Projects with the suggestion of the project being funded by the new ASUW Student Priorities Fund starting in FY24 at the discretion of future ASUW administrations.

Budget

Special Project Budget Request				
Product/Item	Method of Purchase	Total Quantity	Individual Cost	Total Cost
"At-home" Pregnancy Tests	Amazon, purchased directly by ASUW	400	50-ct package is \$12.99 (\$0.26/test; <i>total cost is subject to fluctuate due to Amazon's pricing</i>)	\$103.92
Plan B OTC Emergency Contraception	UW SHS pharmacy purchases, ASUW reimburses	350	\$40/pkg	\$14,000
Informational Stickers	StickerMule, purchased directly by ASUW	500	\$1.83/sticker (Based on 4"x4" sticker size and bulk purchase discount)	\$273.00
Total Request:				\$14,376.92

ASUW Statement of Partnership with Student Health Services

ASUW is committed to continuing to work with Student Health Services to subsidize pregnancy tests and emergency contraception. Student Health Services endorses this project and seeing its implementation as a pilot program for Student Health Services and Pharmacy.

Endorsements and Acknowledgements

Prior to submitting this proposal, the authors consulted with multiple campus individuals, organizations, and other entities who are invested in student safety and wellness. The following stakeholders have endorsed our proposal, and individual statements of support can be found in Addendum B.

- Student Health Services (SHS)
- University Counseling Center (UCC)
- Queer Community Coalition (QCC)
- Interfraternity Council (IFC) President
- Collegiate Panhellenic Executive Council (CPH)

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Sources

- [1] *Abortion to remain legal in Wyoming while lawsuit proceeds.* (2022, August 10). AP NEWS. Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://5fhs.short.gy/yOt2RO>
- [2] *Diversity at the University of Wyoming.* (n.d.). Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://www.uwyo.edu/diversity/today/>
- [3] *Emergency Contraception: A Guide for Parents.* (2021, July 9). Center for Young Women’s Health. Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://youngwomenshealth.org/parents/emergency-contraception-parent/>
- [4] *Access to Emergency Contraception.* (n.d.). ACOG. Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2017/07/access-to-emergency-contraception>
- [5] *Emergency contraception.* (2021, November 9). Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/emergency-contraception>
- [6] *Cost-Related Barriers Prevent Low-Income Women in the United States from Using Their Preferred Contraceptive Method, New Study Finds.* (2022, September 1). Guttmacher Institute. Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/news-release/2022/cost-related-barriers-prevent-low-income-women-united-states-using-their-preferred>
- [7] Kavanaugh, M. L. (2020, September 1). Use of contraception among reproductive-aged women in the United States, 2014 and 2016. *F&S Reports*. [https://www.fertstertreports.org/article/S2666-3341\(20\)30038-6/fulltext](https://www.fertstertreports.org/article/S2666-3341(20)30038-6/fulltext)
- [8] *U.S. Abortion Patients.* (2022, August 24). Guttmacher Institute. Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/infographic/2016/us-abortion-patients>
- [9] Branum, A. M., & Ahrens, K. A. (2016, July 23). Trends in Timing of Pregnancy Awareness Among US Women. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, 21(4), 715–726. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10995-016-2155-1>
- [10] *One in three people learn they’re pregnant past six weeks’ gestation.* (n.d.). ANSIRH. Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://www.ansirh.org/research/research/one-three-people-learn-theyre-pregnant-past-six-weeks-gestation>
- [11/12] *Unplanned Pregnancy Prevention: An Academic Advising Curriculum to Enhance Student Retention and College Completion.* (n.d.-a). Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Academic-Advising-Today/View-Articles/Unplanned-Pregnancy-Prevention-An-Academic-Advising-Curriculum-to-Enhance-Student-Retention-and-College-Completion.aspx>

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**Addendum B:
Stakeholder Endorsement Statements**



The University of Wyoming
Student Health Service supports
ASUW's Special Project to
purchase pregnancy tests and
emergency contraception to
reduce the cost burden on
students and to increase
healthcare access.

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Counseling Center

Statement of Support for ASUW-Student Health Services Special Projects Funding Proposal

The University Counseling Center (UCC) supports ASUW-Student Health Services special projects funding proposal to subsidize emergency contraception and pregnancy test costs for UW students who have the capacity to become pregnant. In 2022, the American Psychological Association adopted a resolution building on the organization's longstanding support for reproductive rights based on a preponderance of scientific data supporting the conclusion that freedom of choice and control over critical life decisions promotes psychological health. Specifically, research demonstrates that unwanted pregnancies can result in increased psychological distress, higher levels of anxiety, lower life satisfaction, and lower self-esteem. This is particularly true for communities that already struggle to access basic health care, such as college students who live in rural areas, lack financial resources, and/or are of young age. Further, there is a demonstrated link between unwanted pregnancy and interpersonal violence, whereas risk for domestic abuse among those who are forced to stay in contact with violent partners increases for both childbearing people and their children. Thus, the UCC supports any project that increases access to pregnancy detection and prevention measures, including pregnancy tests and emergency contraception.

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We, as the College Panhellenic Association Executive Council, fully support ASUW's special project proposal to subsidize the cost of pregnancy tests and Plan B at Student Health Services so that all students have access to them.

As a women's organization, we are happy to support this special project that could greatly benefit the women, and anyone capable of pregnancy on the University of Wyoming's campus.

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I, as President of the Interfraternity Council at the University of Wyoming, support ASUW's project proposal for subsidizing the cost of Plan B and pregnancy tests so that they may be available for students at Student Health Services.

-Carson Stinson, IFC President

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QCC is proud to endorse this ASUW Special Project Proposal. We recognize the importance of access to pregnancy tests, as well as Plan B contraception, especially during this time of contention over reproductive rights. Removing the financial barrier to these products is essential to ensuring that students who may become pregnant are able- regardless of socioeconomic status- to participate in university life with peace of mind.