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Family Planning Advocates Lauds Clinton-Lowey Resolution Supporting Access to Contraception

Statement by Family Planning Advocates President and CEO JoAnn M. Smith

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“Senator Clinton and Congressman Lowey’s resolution calls on all members of Congress to go on record in support of family planning services and education. Improving access to contraception will greatly help to reduce needlessly high rates of unintended pregnancy in our country and our state.

“The United States has one of the highest rates of unintended pregnancy in the industrialized world and New York has one of the highest rates of unintended pregnancy in the nation. According to the Guttmacher Institute, more than 2.5 million women in New York are in need of contraceptive services and supplies. New York’s family planning clinics struggle to provide contraceptive care to nearly 500,000 women. More information, education and resources are needed now.

“Congress must support the Clinton-Lowey resolution to help all women, regardless of income, avoid unintended pregnancy and abortion through access to birth control. Both women and men need contraception and the information necessary to use it consistently and correctly. Contraception is very effective when used properly. The vast majority of unintended pregnancies occur among the small proportion of those who do not use contraception.

“The federal government has not done enough to make contraceptives available – especially to poor women who may not be able to afford the best methods. Restricting access to birth control only results in more abortions. And restricting access to abortions only forces those who are most vulnerable to have them later in pregnancy, when they are riskier.

“Women deserve safe and legal access to reproductive health care, and contraception is an essential part of that care. New York is proud of the leadership provided by Senator Clinton and Congressman Lowey.”

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