

October 15, 2018

Dear Working Group member,

Last September, we hosted our most action-packed working group meeting yet followed by our first day focused on OCs OTC on Capitol Hill. Many of our partners and people we met in Washington, DC, noted what a busy time it was to be on the Hill and stated how grateful they were to be working on or learning about such a proactive campaign to increase access to contraception. We recognize that with the changes in the US Supreme Court we will be fighting along with our partners to protect our sexual and reproductive rights as well as continuing our work to Free the Pill. We are energized and inspired by the working group's passion and dedication to ensure that a future OTC pill is affordable and accessible to all.

We're proud to share an overview of our events in Washington, DC. From sharing Free the Pill graphics on social media to educating your legislators on Capitol Hill, thank you to all of you who contributed to making these events a success!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate".

Kate Grindlay Kelly
Project Director/Associate
Ibis Reproductive Health

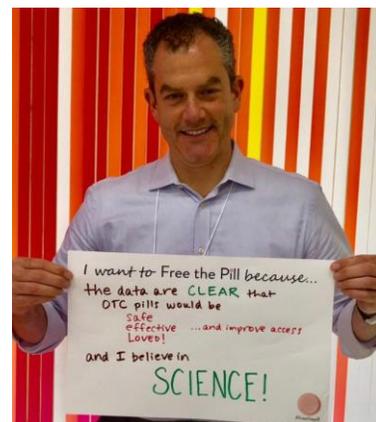
2018 OCs OTC Working Group meeting and World Contraception Day



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Our annual working group meeting took place on September 25, 2018 in Washington, DC, with approximately 90 working group members in attendance. The day started off with warm welcomes, context setting, and visioning from Ibis Reproductive Health. Next, our pharmaceutical partner, HRA Pharma, shared updates on their progress conducting research for a future submission to the FDA to make a progestin-only pill available OTC. Then, Advocates for Youth led the working group through a foundational training on youth-adult partnerships. After lunch, Hart Research Associates and ConwayStrategic walked us through the latest message testing data on attitudes surrounding the availability of an OTC OC. Later, representatives from the National Women's Law Center outlined steps advocates can take to create a legal and policy framework to ensure insurance coverage of an OTC OC. Finally, meeting facilitator Miriam Yeung moderated a friendly competition between teams to see who could come up with the most unique ideas to take action and spread the word about Free the Pill.

Thank you again to all who took part, and we hope you'll join us again next year.



September 26, 2018 was World Contraception Day and we took to Capitol Hill to celebrate and educate on our Free the Pill coalition. We kicked off the day bright and early with our Free the Pill brand ambassadors who handed out Free the Pill blister pack gum and information cards to passersby near the metro and Senate buildings. Concurrently, we hosted a Hill briefing, *Contraception in the US*, presented by Ibis Reproductive Health, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, and the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health and hosted by Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA). The briefing celebrated the achievements we have made in contraceptive access and technology, and discussed the ways people currently use and depend on contraception, barriers that remain in place, and what innovations we anticipate in the near future--including an OTC pill.

From there, working group members gathered in advocacy groups to make educational visits to their legislators. We focused on sharing information on our effort to Free the Pill and addressed key questions and concerns that legislators and their staff have about safety and accessibility of a future OTC pill.



You can ask a robot to order a pizza but we still don't have an over-the-counter birth control pill. What are we waiting for?

#FreeThePill



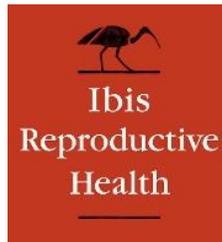
Did you join the World Contraception Day tweetstorm? It's not too late to share this image on social media showing you support the effort to #FreeThePill:

We want a future where every person has the resources they need to make decisions about their own bodies + what their families look like. One piece of that is an over-the-counter birth control pill. #FreeThePill <http://pic.twitter.com/rNx5rumP7r>

About us

The Oral Contraceptives (OCs) Over-the-Counter (OTC) Working Group is a coalition of reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations, nonprofit research and advocacy groups, university-based researchers, and prominent clinicians who share a commitment to providing all women of reproductive age easier access to safe, effective, acceptable, and affordable contraceptives. The working group was established in 2004 to explore the potential of over-the-counter access to oral contraceptives to reduce disparities in reproductive health care access and outcomes, and to increase opportunities for women to access a safe, effective method of contraception, free of unnecessary control, as part of a healthy sexual and reproductive life.

The working group is coordinated by Ibis Reproductive Health.



www.ibisreproductivehealth.org

Contact us

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