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Congress of the United States
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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
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AND ENTITLEMENTS
NATIONAL SECURITY
GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION
TASK FORCE
Vice Chair

September 11, 2014

Gregory D. Wasson
President & Chief Executive Officer
Walgreens
200 Wilmot Road
Deerfield, IL 60015

Dear Mr. Wasson:

As the Ranking Member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Health Care, and Entitlements Subcommittee, I am concerned with Walgreens' implementation of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) "Women's Health Amendment" or section 2713 of the Public Health Service Act that requires coverage of women's health preventive services without cost sharing, specifically access to contraception.^[1]

Since the release of the letter I sent to CVS Health CEO Larry Merlo on September 9th, my office has begun to receive a number of responses from women throughout my Congressional District, and around the country. My office has received reports that Walgreens also illegally charged copays to women filling their generic contraception prescriptions.

I am concerned that most women who are likely not as familiar with their rights under the ACA may go without this essential family planning service that is supposed to be guaranteed to them under law. With women representing two-thirds of minimum wage workers, and the cost of some contraceptive methods such as an IUD being nearly equivalent to a month's full-time pay for workers earning the minimum wage, this scenario is not just a possibility, but a harsh reality.

As Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, I request that you provide me with the following information:

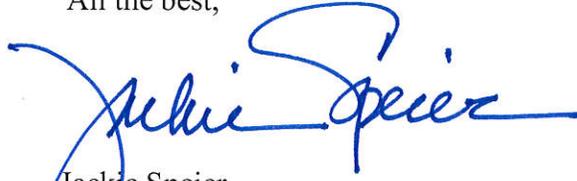
- 1) What is the scope of this issue? How many women, and in which states, have been affected?
- 2) How many women have been charged an illegal co-pay for their prescription and have paid the fee? What is the current total dollar amount of these transactions?
- 3) How many women have independently sought reimbursement via Walgreens or via their insurance company (if their purchase has exceeded the 7 day correction period)? What is the current total dollar amount of these reimbursements?

^[1] <http://www.hrsa.gov/womensguidelines/>

- 4) What is Walgreens doing to proactively identify women that were charged an illegal co-pay for their prescriptions and assist them in receiving reimbursements?
- 5) What is your estimated timeline for when this issue will be fully corrected?

I know that Walgreens prides itself on being a company that seeks to provide top-notch health care and to improve the health of its customers. I appreciate your urgent attention to this matter, and look forward to working with you to make sure this issue is resolved as soon as possible.

All the best,



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress