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ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL DEFENDS AFFORDABLE CARE ACT BIRTH CONTROL COVERAGE MANDATE

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today joined a coalition of 21 attorneys general in filing an amicus brief in the United States Supreme Court supporting Pennsylvania in its case defending contraceptive coverage and counseling mandated under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

[In the brief](#) filed in Donald Trump et al. v. Pennsylvania, Raoul and the coalition explain that states have an interest in safeguarding the ACA's birth control coverage requirement, which has benefited more than 62 million women across the country. The coalition argues that access to affordable birth control is critical to the health, well-being, and economic security of the states' residents.

"Tens of thousands of women rely on coverage for contraception as a fundamental part of their health care plans," Raoul said. "Employers do not have the right to stand between their female employees and the reproductive health care they need."

In 2017 and 2018, the federal government issued rules that ignored the ACA's birth control requirement and allowed employers to deny birth control coverage to their employees based on religious or moral objections. Raoul and a coalition of 14 attorneys general successfully defended the ACA's birth control coverage requirement. California obtained injunctions against the federal government's illegal rules in the 9th Circuit, while Pennsylvania obtained an injunction in the 3rd Circuit.

After California and Pennsylvania won injunctions that protect the birth control coverage mandate, the federal government, Little Sisters of the Poor, and March for Life filed petitions for certiorari in the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court granted the petitions in the Pennsylvania litigation.

In the amicus brief, Raoul and the coalition argue that the states have a vested interest in providing women seamless contraceptive coverage. Tens of thousands of women will lose their cost-free contraceptive coverage if employers are allowed to exempt themselves from the ACA requirement. This loss of coverage will result in a reliance on state-funded programs that will increase the states' costs associated with the provision of reproductive healthcare, and will likely lead to an increase in unintended pregnancies.

Joining Raoul in the amicus brief are the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.