

# NORTH COUNTY TIMES

November 21, 2010

---

## **Birth control should be covered at no cost**

It's no surprise that nearly three-fourths of American voters (71 percent) believe insurers should be required to fully cover the cost of all forms of prescription contraception, as they will be required to do for other preventive health care services under the new health care reform law.

This statistic was found from a survey conducted by Hart Research Associates, and points to an overwhelming and widespread public support for national policies that would provide prescription birth control approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration at no cost to all women with health insurance.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will release a decision by August 2011 regarding which specific benefits will be covered at no cost for women under the new health care law. Prescription birth control should be and needs to be one of these benefits, so that all women can afford their personal choice method of birth control, ultimately decreasing the unacceptable number of unintended pregnancies.

**ANDREA VALJI**  
**San Diego**