

FOX News: Birth Control Prices Skyrocketing

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AUSTIN - Some women want to see some price control when it comes to their birth control. Planned Parenthood said the price tag on birth control pills has gone up anywhere from 500 to 900 percent in the past year, forcing many to explore other options, or even go without contraceptive.

For some women it's a matter of choosing between buying groceries or birth control pills. Others have to cut costs just to be able to pay for the pill.

A recent federal law now omits student health centers and some non-profit clinics from offering slashed prices, and women in this city are feeling the pain.

Taking the pill has been part of Jenny Wawrose's routine for the past few years.

"It used to cost \$20 to \$30 a month, but now it costs \$65. The last time I got it, the price was raised from \$62 to \$66," she said.

Now she's reconsidering her monthly purchase.

"I don't know, I don't think I can keep taking it, or this kind that much longer because it's \$700 a year, which is absurd," Wawrose said.

The UT sophomore's doctor prescribed a birth control pill to help with medical issues other than contraception, which is holding her back from calling it quits altogether.

"I'm going to have to do something, because I'm not going to be able to afford \$60 to \$65 a month," she said.

It's a concern physicians here at Planned Parenthood say they're hearing from their patients.

"We have some saying, 'What are we going to do this month? I've got bills coming due,'" said Dr. Scott Spear.

Planned Parenthood said the number of unintended pregnancies and teen pregnancies has gone up.

"We can't directly link it, but our concern is obviously having birth control be so expensive makes it a challenge for some women to take it every month," Spear said.

Dr. Spear said it's all because of a federal bill that recently became a law.

"It prevented what's called nominal pricing to student health centers and a number of types of clinics like Planned Parenthood," he said.

That explains Wawrose's case. She said she tried to get a student discount at the UT Health Center, but didn't. So, what's the alternative to pricey pills?

"Condoms are effective if they're used consistently and correctly, and many women choose to use condoms because they're less expensive," Spears said. He said it's not as effective as taking the pill. As for Wawrose, who uses birth control for medical reasons, she'll continue to pay up, because she feels she has no choice.

Since Planned Parenthood spans the nation and is able to order birth control in big numbers, it's able to offer the pack at \$23 a month, which is a steal right now.

They're also asking clients and patients to fill out this form, in the shape of a birth control case, asking congress to change the law, and allow for lower pill prices. We spoke with the UT Health Center, they said they've seen a reduction in women seeking birth control.