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WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today responded to an announcement by Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, who declared that a slate of women’s preventative care services must be covered by insurance plans without additional costs under the Affordable Care Act. The landmark decision makes birth control, counseling for domestic abuse victims, and a range of women’s preventative care services more obtainable for women.

As Co-Chair of the Pro-Choice Caucus, Slaughter is considered a leading advocate for women’s issues. She is a preeminent supporter of birth control access for all women.

And as a co-author of the original Violence Against Women Act, Slaughter has long advocated for screenings and counseling for victims of domestic abuse as a necessary preventative services. More on the Violence Against Women Act is included below.

“It is the fruition of not years but decades of work, and represents a historic milestone for women’s health and women’s rights in America. Access to contraception, counseling for victims of domestic abuse, and preventative screenings for HIV and other diseases will empower women to reduce unintended pregnancies and better protect themselves and their health. For years we’ve fought to get contraception covered for women by health insurance, just as they have covered Viagra for men.

“Today’s decision prioritizes overall health and well-being rather than simply catastrophic and costly emergency care – and is exactly what we had in mind when we passed the Affordable Care Act.”

Slaughter has sponsored legislation in the 112th Congress, [H.R. 1578](#), the Violence Against Women Health Initiative Act, as the first step in reauthorizing the original Violence Against Women Act, signed into law in 1994.

[For more on Slaughter’s work regarding the Violence Against Women Act, click here.](#)

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