Factors influencing the creation of contraceptive equity laws

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Abstract: This is a study of the factors influencing the creation of contraceptive equity laws, which require private insurers to pay for prescription contraceptives at the same levels as all other prescription medications. Currently, twenty (20) states maintain contraceptive equity laws. Prior to this study, the only available information on contraceptive equity laws concerned their presence or absence in a state. Therefore, this study was designed in two parts: first, the researcher conducted a comprehensive case study of the law adoption process in North Carolina to better understand the issues surrounding the adoption process, since this had not been previously established. Second, the researcher employed the information gathered in the case study to generate a quantitative, event history analysis model to predict the likelihood that a state would adopt a contraceptive equity law in a given year. The results of this study indicate that the four factors which most significantly impact contraceptive equity law adoption in the states are the percentage of women in the state legislature, the percentage of Democrats in the state legislature, the percentage of Catholics living in the state and the number of news media articles covering the topic of contraceptive equity in the year of the law debate. The predictive model also includes five other independent variables (non-significant) for a total of nine explanatory variables. With a pseudo R-squared statistic of .3924, the model explains greater than thirty-nine percent of the variance in the equation. The case study portion of this research provides valuable information concerning the process and issues related to contraceptive equity law adoption. The model created in the quantitative analysis portion of the study arms advocates and lawmakers with a tool to more accurately measure the likelihood of adoption given various conditions. The combination of these two methodologies allows interested parties to make advance decisions about whether to commit resources (time and financial) to efforts to support or prevent the passage of contraceptive equity bills. This is a valuable resource for researchers and decision makers alike.

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