

THE BLUE BANNER

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The Blue Banner is UNC Asheville's student newspaper. We publish each Tuesday except during summer sessions, finals week and holiday breaks. Our office is located in Karpen Hall 019.

The Blue Banner is a designated forum for free speech and welcomes letters to the editor, considering them on basis of interest, space and timeliness. Letters and articles should be emailed to the editor-in-chief or the appropriate section editor. Letters should include the writer's name, year in school, and major or other relationship to UNCA. Include a phone number to aid in verification. All articles are subject to editing.

EDITORIAL

NEW MANDATE UNDERMINES CONTRACEPTIVE RIGHTS

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The Trurap administration's most recent folly continues a trend of disservice and contempt toward women — the rolling back of a mandate which eliminated copays on female contraceptive provided through employers.

Trump and his white male cabinet yet again negatively affect his constituents, predominately women, as a rollback on the Obama-era contraceptive coverage mandate jeopardizes benefits for millions.

The mandate allows employers to reject covering contraceptives for employees on the grounds of "sincerely held moral convictions." According to the Trump administration, the decree is an effort to cease the longtime "bullying and silencing" of people of faith. This merely adds more fuel to the abortion debate, as preventative measures are being stripped by supposed opponents.

The measure primarily seems to be an effort to revive the administration's dwindling popu-

lation of supporters rather than a well-intentioned proposal. *The Blue Banner* believes that, no matter the issue, the well-being of humans should never be used as an instrument for political gain. Female contraceptives act not only as an effective method of preventing unwanted pregnancies, but is also a means of regulating hormonal imbalances, abnormal menstruation, acne and painful medical conditions such as endometriosis. The ideological accentuation of sexual engagement in rhetoric surrounding this issue neglects the conversation surrounding actual health benefits for patients.

This action from the Trump administration is a direct attack on individuals who use birth control as a fundamental component of their health care. By lumping together mass groups of individuals under the same umbrella of guidelines, our leaders oppress their people and refuse to acknowledge those outside of the religious spectrum.