NEW JERSEY
Focusing on Women's Health

Making the Grade on Women's Health: A National and State-by-State Report Card by the National Women's Law Center and Oregon Health & Science University finds that necessary health care is absent for too many women and better access to health insurance is needed.

Women in New Jersey lack access to necessary health care.

- Nearly three-quarters of a million women in New Jersey lack health insurance.

- 1 in 5 women in the state does not receive prenatal care during her first trimester.

- 1 in 4 women over age 40 has not had a mammogram with the past two years.

- Almost 16 percent of women over age 18 have not had a Pap smear within the past three years.

Women in New Jersey suffer negative health outcomes.

- New Jersey ranks 47th in the nation for the most deaths due to breast cancer.

- An alarming 153 out of 100,000 women die from coronary heart disease.

- More than 1 in 4 women in New Jersey suffers from high blood pressure.

New Jersey should enact and maintain policies that ensure health care access.

- New Jersey should raise Medicaid eligibility for families. Working parents earning more than $19,090 (115% of the federal poverty level for a family of three) are not eligible for Medicaid coverage.

- New Jersey should ensure family planning coverage for low-income women. The state has not secured a waiver to expand Medicaid coverage for family planning services.

- New Jersey should require health plans to allow direct access to OB/GYNs.

- New Jersey should pass health reform that would expand coverage for all.

- Marking some progress, New Jersey currently requires insurance companies to cover all FDA-approved forms of contraception if they cover other prescription drugs and devices.

The 2007 *Report Card* compares the nation and individual states to goals primarily set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2010 agenda. The health status of women across the country needs significant improvement.

**For more information,
complete report findings are online at
http://hrc.nwlc.org**