



# Parliament of Sint Maarten

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## Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of General Affairs  
Ms. S.E. Jacobs  
Government Administration Building  
**Philipsburg**

UV/164/2020-2021

Philipsburg, March 15, 2021

Re: Request from MP M.D. Gumbs regarding instruction to SER to conduct study on availability of contraception

Hon. Prime Minister,

Herewith I submit to you a request by Member of Parliament, Ms. M.D. Gumbs pursuant to article 62 of the Constitution and Article 69 of the Rules of Order of the Parliament of Sint Maarten.

The letter is self-explanatory.

Yours truly,

R. Brison

President of Parliament



Melissa D. Gumbs

Member of the Parliament of  
Sint Maarten

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN

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President of Parliament  
Mr. Rolando Brison  
Wilhelminastraat 1  
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Subject: Request to the Social Economic Council (SER) to conduct a study on the availability of contraception (birth control pills, IUDs, etc) to the wider population with a particular focus on the socio-economic impact that lack of access to these methods may have on lower-income communities

Dear Chairman Brison:

St. Maarten has committed to working towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, which target issues across a variety of topics, such as ending poverty, energy, education and health, among others. Goal Five focuses on Gender Equality and notes that "gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world." Achieving this goal entails providing women with environments that allow them to thrive, personally, professionally and health-wise.

Women are facing a significant health challenge, worldwide, with access to contraceptive methods such as birth control pills, IUDs (intrauterine devices), the contraceptive injection, and others. In certain developed countries, access to contraception is either included in the general health insurance package or offered at subsidized rates to encourage use of modern methods of contraception. In many developing nations, and particularly lower-income communities in those nations, easy access to contraception is not possible. This has a significant health and social impact on the women in those communities. For example, certain contraceptive methods can be used to treat symptoms of PCOS (polycystic ovary syndrome) and symptoms of endometriosis, both of which are often painful conditions that impact 1 out of 10 women, worldwide.

Through you, Chairman, I hereby request that you forward this request to the Minister of General Affairs, the Honorable Prime Minister Silveria Jacobs to, according to article 2 paragraph 1 of the National Ordinance of the Social Economic Council, instruct the SER to conduct a study and compile an advice on the following:

1. The availability of contraception (birth control pills, IUDs, etc) to the wider population of St. Maarten.
2. Challenges faced by women in the community with obtaining contraceptive methods on St. Maarten, i.e. lack of coverage by insurance.
3. The socio-economic impact that lack of access to these methods may have on lower-income communities.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Respectfully,

Melissa D. Gumbs, M.I.B.

Member of Parliament

Faction Leader, Party for Progress

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