Last Thursday, a Congressional meeting was held to discuss whether mandating that employers cover birth control in their insurance plans was infringing on religious freedom.

Not shocking that the meeting happened even after the “religious institutions” parts had been altered to exclude the groups, since birth control seems to be the only topic politicians are clinging to. However, looking around the meeting room some began to ask: “Where are all of the women?”

Yup, there was a meeting about reproductive rights — birth control use specifically — and not a single woman sat on the panel or was allowed to give testimony. Are you kidding me?

There seriously was a talk all about uteruses, ovaries, and vaginas, and no one thought maybe we should hear from someone who actually has one?

What makes this even worse is that Rep. Darrell Issa, who chaired the meeting, actually refused to hear from women who came to explain the use of birth control for medical and non-contraceptive reasons. That’s right; birth control also helps with medical conditions.

Sandra Fluke, a student from Georgetown, had planned on being a witness to tell stories of women from the Georgetown community who were denied pill coverage. One story was about a woman who lost an ovary, and was now struggling to have children.

However, Fluke was denied for not being well-qualified. I would have to say, having female anatomy probably makes her much more qualified than anyone else on the committee.

Especially when the largest input about birth control has been made by Foster Friess, Rick Santorum's pocket book, when he said, "Back in my days, they'd use Bayer Aspirin as contraceptives," he joked on MSNBC. "The gals put it between their knees, and it wasn't that costly."

…Good one?

I realize that Friess apologized for the ill joke after no one was laughing. What is a good joke is the idea of having us all go back to the rhythm method.

I don't understand why so many people are hating on the pill. Birth control is necessary. Take a look around; the population is rapidly growing. If you thought housing at ISU was rough, imagine having eight more kids in your house.

No one needs that many copies of themselves. No one needs to have a litter of children anymore. The only reason people were having that many kids back in the hay day was because there was no medicine and many families in our country needed children to work for the home.

Seriously Congress, birth control is expensive. It's not like running to the gas station for cough drops. Without insurance, some pills can cost up to $50 a pack.

Furthermore, why are we only talking about women's reproductive rights? How are vasectomies getting out of this conversation and masturbation getting out of this conversation and even condoms?

Maybe Congress should be a little more careful about who they invite to meetings from now on. Women make up half of the population. So hopefully they aren't relying on that 50 percent of the vote during the election.

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