

Improving Access to Hormonal Contraception for All Women

HB135 - Representative Michelle Mussman, D-Schaumburg

In 2010, 52% of all pregnancies (128,000) in Illinois were unintended.¹

The average publicly financed cost per unintended pregnancy is about \$10,000.²

Over 75% of Illinois women's needs for contraception services and supplies are NOT met.³

HB135: Amends the Pharmacy Practice Act to expand women's access to hormonal contraceptives.

Background:

- By decreasing the number of unintended pregnancies through family planning services, taxpayers saved \$13.6 billion in 2010, with a savings of \$7.09 for every \$1 spent.⁴
- In 2014, 772,510 Illinois women aged 13-44 needed publicly funded family planning services.³
- 154,660 women received contraception from publicly supported family planning centers in 2014.³
- In 2010, unintended pregnancies cost the federal and state governments \$21 billion dollars.⁴
- Having pharmacists able to prescribe oral contraceptives could decrease the number of unintended pregnancies by 7- 25%.⁵
- Currently 10 states (California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, and Washington) as well as D.C. allow pharmacists to prescribe contraception via statewide protocol.⁶
- Arkansas, Iowa, Massachusetts, Missouri, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, Texas, and West Virginia are currently considering similar legislation.
- In 2008, the two-thirds of US women at risk for pregnancy who used contraceptives consistently accounted for only 5% of unintended pregnancies.⁷

Women with incomes below the federal poverty level have more than five times the unintended pregnancy rate of women at 200% of poverty and greater.⁸

Pharmacists and HB135 United:

- Access to contraceptives is crucial in reducing unintended pregnancies. Studies have shown that the requirement to see a doctor and obtain a prescription before receiving birth control can be a substantial obstacle for some women, especially for women of lower socioeconomic levels.
- Allowing women to purchase birth control without a previous doctor's visit will be empowering for women by providing improved access, more options, and better health.
- Pharmacists with specialized training will be authorized through a standing order to provide hormonal contraceptive patches, vaginal ring, and self-administered oral hormonal contraceptives after a screening process in which women fill out a questionnaire about their health and medical history. The contraceptives would be covered by insurance, as they are now.
- Pharmacists are the most accessible healthcare professional that receives the most extensive training in proper use of all medications; it only makes sense to utilize these providers to expand access to ensure women have access to additional, very effective, preventative options for contraception.



Vote Yes for HB135!

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