

March 13, 2025

[submitted electronically via: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov]

The Honorable Susan Donovan
Chair, House Committee on Health & Human Services
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H6038 – Contraception Bill Amendment – SUPPORT


Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

I am submitting this letter to state my complete support of H6038 to **amend** the pharmacist-initiated dispensing of hormonal contraception (HC). Under this Amendment, the 3-month restriction for a first fill by trained pharmacists initiating and dispensing hormonal birth control in the form of pills, patches, and the intravaginal ring will be removed.

I have been a community pharmacist for 25 years and have witnessed the fragmented care patients endure trying to obtain their hormonal contraception. Specifically, for the past 18 years I have been working in a community pharmacy on weekends, when provider offices are closed. Women are often faced with a scenario in which they no longer have refills on their hormonal contraceptive prescriptions and are unable to access their medication, potentially leading to disruptions in their menstrual cycle and a lack of protection for unintended pregnancies. The community pharmacist is forced to deny women their medication despite possessing the knowledge as a highly educated and trained healthcare provider capable of initiating these therapies.

Research has demonstrated that students, patients, pharmacists, and clinicians in Rhode Island consistently identify delays in provider appointments as a significant barrier to accessing hormonal contraception. Removing these barriers—such as day supply restrictions—enhances care for everyone in the state. Pharmacists, who are often more accessible than other healthcare providers, play a key role in improving public health and advancing health equity.

Sincerely,



Ginger Lemay, PharmD, CDOE, CVDOE
Clinical Professor
PGY1 Community-Based Residency Program Director
University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy
[URI & Walgreens PGY1 Community-Based Residency Program](#)

President, Rhode Island Pharmacists Association, 2022-2023

Practice Sites:

Walgreens Pharmacy, Community Pharmacist
Visiting Nurse Home & Hospice, Transition of Care Pharmacist

Whalen A, Bratberg J, Cohen L, Orr K, Lemay V. Assessing pharmacist and clinician perspectives on pharmacist-prescribed hormonal contraceptives. J Am Pharm Assoc (2003). 2024 Jan-Feb;64(1):314-320.e3. doi: 10.1016/j.japh.2023.11.013. Epub 2023 Nov 13. PMID: 37967721.

Lemay V, Whalen A, Cohen L, Bratberg J. Assessing student and patient perspectives on pharmacist-prescribed hormonal contraceptives. J Am Pharm Assoc (2003). 2025 Jan-Feb;65(1):102259. doi: 10.1016/j.japh.2024.102259. Epub 2024 Oct 3. PMID: 39368549.