



# Rhode Island Pharmacists Association

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[submitted electronically via: [HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov)]

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

RE: H6038 (Ajello)– AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

We are writing to support H6038 and also companion bill S0476 which would amend a bill passed in 2023 (S0103aa -Kallman) to provide pharmacists the authority to independently prescribe hormonal contraception. The amended statute, is rather minor, and was intended with the original legislation.

- The original legislation required the first fill of pharmacist-prescribed birth control to be limited to 3 months, despite no other profession with this authority to have the same restriction. The change was due to the fear of increased waste with prescribing more than 3 months.
- This legislation sponsored by Rep. Ajello (H6038) and Sen. Kallman (S0476) ammend the current statute to **remove** the 3 month limit.
- The 2022 KFF Women's Health Survey found that more than one-third (36%) of reproductive-age females who use oral contraception have missed taking it on time because they were unable to get their next supply
- Among reproductive-age females who reported using birth control pills in the past year, 32% received 1-2 packs at a time, 63% received 3-5 packs, and just 6% received a supply of 6 months or more.
- Providing women with an extended supply of pill packs may lead to more consistent contraceptive use. **Women who receive a 1-year supply have been found to be 30% less likely to have an unintended pregnancy compared to women receiving a 1–3-month supply**  
<https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/oral-contraceptive-pills-access-and-availability/>

**This** small change can have a large impact clinically, practically and bridge the gap for patients to healthcare providers where necessary.

Thank you,

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*Affiliated with the American Pharmacists Association and the  
National Community Pharmacists Association*