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ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT

TESTIMONY ON 25-H 6038, RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS– PHARMACIES March 13, 2025

Under current Rhode Island law, the first fill of pharmacist-prescribed birth control is limited to a three-month supply. The ACLU of Rhode Island supports this bill, which would amend the current statute to remove the three-month limit. This change would provide individuals with greater control over their reproductive health, reduce the likelihood of gaps in contraception use, and further promote reproductive autonomy.

Providing an extended supply of birth control pill packs may lead to more consistent contraceptive use. Users who receive a one-year supply have been found to be 30% less likely to have an unintended pregnancy compared to users receiving a 1-3-month supply of pill packages.¹ Similarly, more than one-third (36%) of reproductive-age users who use oral contraception have missed taking it on time because they were unable to obtain their next supply.² This legislation will help reduce those barriers, ensuring that users have a continuous and reliable access to their contraception.

By eliminating the arbitrary three-month limitation, this bill ensures that individuals can make more informed and effective decisions about their reproductive health without unnecessary interruptions or limitations. Access to consistent birth control options is important in addressing health disparities and empowering individuals, particularly those in underserved communities, to take charge of their reproductive choices.

Thank you for considering our views.

¹ <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/oral-contraceptive-pills-access-and-availability/>

² <https://www.kff.org/report-section/contraception-in-the-united-states-a-closer-look-at-experiences-preferences-and-coverage-findings/#Accessing-Contraception>