



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate clears the way to access of full year of birth control

HB 3343 will make Oregon first in the nation with a year-long policy, promoting more consistent use and better access in rural areas

SALEM – The Senate approved legislation today that allows Oregon women to access a 12-month birth control supply, helping ensure consistent use and improving convenience for women on birth control. House Bill 3343, which passed the Senate unanimously, will require all health insurance providers to reimburse a provider or pharmacy for dispensing a full 12-month supply of prescription contraception.

“Prescriptive contraceptives are highly effective and an important part of family planning for many Oregonians, but they need to be used consistently,” said Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward (D-Beaverton), who carried the bill on the floor and is a family physician. “Ensuring that women have access to 12 continuous months of birth control will improve consistent use and better serve women juggling demanding schedules.”

Currently, many insurers only provide reimbursement for 30 or 90 days of birth control at a time, even if a prescription has been written for a longer duration of time. House Bill 3343 requires reimbursement for dispensing a 12-month supply only after a patient has received an initial 3-months of a prescription, helping to ensure that a patient is comfortable with a method before receiving a 12-month supply.

“The ability to access reliable birth control isn’t just a health issue for women, it’s an economic issue,” said Senator Sara Gelser (D-Corvallis/Albany). “When women can plan the timing of their children, they are better able to meet the economic needs of their kids and families. Access to a full year of contraceptives will make it more convenient for women to access birth control, improve the success of contraception and allow women to have greater control over their own futures.”

A recent study revealed that rates of unintended pregnancy and abortion decrease significantly when women receive a one-year supply of oral contraceptives, as compared to being provided with one- or three-month supplies. Researchers suggest that a larger, continuous supply of oral contraceptive pills

allows for more consistent use, since women need to make fewer visits to a clinic or pharmacy for uninterrupted supply.

“Ninety-nine percent of women will take birth control at some point in their lives,” said Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson (D-Gresham), chair of the Senate Health Care Committee. “With House Bill 3343, Oregon will be the first state in the country to ensure that women have reliable and steady access to a full year of contraceptives.”

HB 3343 has the support of the Oregon Medical Association, Oregon Nurses Association, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, Oregon Health and Science University, American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon, Western States Center, Oregon Latino Health Coalition, and Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon.

“I am proud to see Oregon once again lead the nation on supporting reproductive choice,” said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland). “The bill allows a woman to make long-term, personal health decisions without insurance companies, or politicians, standing in her way.”

HB 3343 will now go to the Governor for her consideration.

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