

Putting Prevention First: Guaranteeing Women's Access to Prescriptions



Insuring access to birth control at all pharmacies

- In theory, every woman who walks into a pharmacy with a legal prescription for birth control or emergency contraception (EC) should walk out a short time later with the pills in her hand. But unfortunately this is not the case. More and more pharmacists are using their personal beliefs to stand in the way of a woman getting her prescription.
- 98% of women will at some point in their life use birth control, and many of these women will use it for reasons other than preventing pregnancy. Birth Control is basic health care, and no pharmacist should be able to stop a woman from getting a prescription that she and her doctor have decided she needs.
- In some cases pharmacists have not only refused to fill prescriptions but have lectured the women about their decision to use birth control or EC. No woman should have to face a moral lecture in order to fill a legal prescription.
- Two States, California and Illinois, have enacted laws that guarantee women's access to prescriptions.

Did you know?

According to a recent CBS/New York Times poll, 8 in 10 Americans say pharmacists who personally oppose birth control for religious reasons should not refuse to sell oral contraceptives to women

What the Ohio Prevention First Act will do:

- Creates a pharmacist's duty to dispense all of the legal prescriptions given to them despite religious beliefs unless accommodation of those beliefs can be made without interfering with a person receiving their medication.
- A pharmacist who wishes to not fill certain prescriptions will have to inform their employer in writing and the pharmacy must make arrangements to make sure that a woman can still get the prescription filled without judgment or delay.
- A pharmacist who refuses to fill a legal prescription without informing their employer ahead of time may have his or her license revoked unless the refusal is based on a valid medical concern.



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