



# WREN

Women's  
Rights &  
Empowerment  
Network

scWREN.org

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Visit [www.scwren.org](http://www.scwren.org) and join the movement for better reproductive health policies in South Carolina.
- Share this information with your friends and get your community to make their voices heard.
- Keep up-to-date with all the legislative issues that deal with reproductive health by following WREN on Facebook, and Twitter.

## THE POLICY

# 12-Month Supply of Birth Control

## OVERVIEW

South Carolina can curtail high rates of unintended pregnancy by following the lead of the six states and the District of Columbia that have passed legislation requiring that public and private insurance plans cover a 12-month supply of prescribed, self-administered contraceptives — such as the ring, the patch and oral contraceptives — at one time.

- Half of all pregnancies in South Carolina are unintended.<sup>1</sup>
- Unintended pregnancy can have significant, negative consequences for individual women, their families and society as a whole.
- Consistent use of birth control is the most effective method of preventing pregnancy among sexually active women.
- In order to prevent pregnancy, birth control pills must be taken every day. Even one missed pill can leave a woman susceptible to an unintended pregnancy.
- According to studies, inconsistent use of contraception accounts for 41 percent of unintended pregnancies.<sup>2</sup>
- Today, most women must refill their birth control prescriptions each month, which can prove to be a burden for women who lack transportation, live in rural areas, move frequently, or struggle to balance hectic work schedules.
- One in four women report they have missed birth control pills because they could not get the next pack in time.<sup>3</sup>
- Dispensing one year's supply of birth control at a time removes a significant barrier to dependable birth control access.
- Studies show that dispensing a greater supply of contraceptives at a clinical visit is associated with fewer repeat visits, greater contraceptive continuation, and a reduction in the odds of unintended pregnancy.<sup>2</sup>
- Researchers observed a 30 percent reduction in the odds of unintended pregnancy and a 46 percent reduction in the odds of an abortion when women received a 1-year supply of contraceptives, compared to only a one to three month supply.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Kost K. "Unintended Pregnancy Rates at the State Level: Estimates for 2010 and Trends Since 2002." New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2015.  
<sup>2</sup> "Analysis of California Senate Bill (SB) 999 Contraceptives: Annual Supply." California Health Benefits Review Program, 2016.  
<sup>3</sup> Foster, Diana et al. Number of Oral Contraceptive Pill Packages Dispensed and Subsequent Unintended Pregnancies. *Obstetrics and Gynecology*: Mar 2011; Vol 117, Iss 3 pp 556-572.  
<sup>4</sup> "Oral Contraceptive Pills." The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2016.