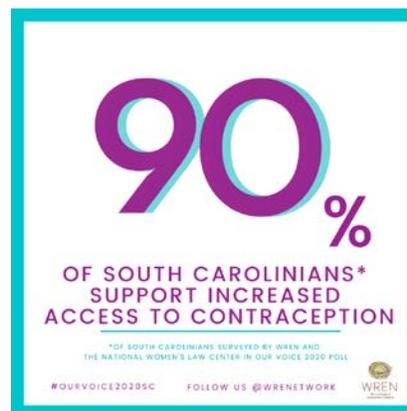


Pharmacy Access Act (S.628)

This bill would authorize pharmacists to prescribe contraceptives, which can make contraceptive care more accessible and affordable by eliminating the need for a separate visit to a health care provider to obtain a prescription.

Removing barriers to birth control so that people can plan, space, and prevent pregnancies is critically important for their economic security. Access to birth control is linked to women's greater educational and professional opportunities and increased lifetime earnings.¹

A person's chances of unintended pregnancy increase considerably when barriers prevent them from using birth control consistently and correctly.



A recent poll showed that 90% of South Carolinians support increased access to contraception.²

Currently, 13 states and Washington, DC, allow pharmacists to prescribe birth control directly to consumers, making it possible for people to access their birth control without needing to visit a doctor or nurse. (Pharmacy access laws have been passed in California, Colorado, Hawai'i, Idaho, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia, as well as in Washington, DC.)

Pharmacist prescribing of contraceptives has been proven to be safe and effective.³

¹ National Women's Law Center. (2016, February). Reproductive Health Is Part of the Economic Health of Women and Their Families. Retrieved from: <https://nwlc-ciw49tixgw5lbbab.stackpathdns.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Reproductive-Health-is-Part-of-the-Economic-Health-of-Women-2.19.166.pdf>

² Change Research, Women's Rights and Empowerment Network, & National Women's Law Center. (2020, January). Our Voice 2020: Poll of Women and LGBTQ Likely Voters in SC. Retrieved from: <http://bit.ly/OurVOICE2020>

³ American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (2019, October). Over-the-Counter Access to Contraception. Retrieved from:

<https://www.acog.org/en/Clinical/Clinical%20Guidance/Committee%20Opinion/Articles/2019/10/Over-the-Counter%20Access%20to%20Hormonal%20Contraception>

The Women's Rights and Empowerment Network is a South Carolina-based network whose mission is to build a movement to advance the health, economic well-being, and rights of South Carolina's women, girls, and their families.

Keep up to date with our work by joining our mailing list at scwren.org and following us on Social Media.

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