

New York Birth Control Access Project

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THE NEW YORK BIRTH CONTROL ACCESS PROJECT ADVOCATES TO EXPAND CONTRACEPTION THROUGH PHARMACY ACCESS

New York, NY (June 4, 2021) -- The New York Birth Control Access Project is advocating for the passage of state legislation to expand access to contraception by authorizing pharmacists to prescribe and dispense birth control. Legislation regarding this policy has been introduced in the New York State legislature since 2015, and was reintroduced in both the Assembly and Senate this session (S.6698 / A.1125).

Nearly 20 states have enacted the policy, which offers individuals a new direct approach to obtaining birth control. Studies are demonstrating the efficacy of this measure and showing that it increases access to patients who are younger or more likely to be uninsured.

An opinion poll of 500 New York women conducted by the New York Birth Control Access Project (NYBCAP) found that 74% of respondents were interested in having a pharmacist prescribe contraception to them. Young people from across New York along with national and statewide organizations have signed onto letters of support for this New York State legislation.

"Pharmacists having the ability to prescribe birth control will create an unprecedented and game-changing level of access," said **Jenna Bimbi, Executive Director of NYBCAP**. "That is why nearly 20 states across the country allow pharmacists to prescribe birth control and that is why New York should join those states now by passing this legislation."

"Across the country, states are enacting restrictive and punishing policies to erode reproductive rights. New York needs to continue to be a leader in protecting women and expanding reproductive health care at the state level," said **Assembly Member Amy Paulin, sponsor of the bill**. "By authorizing pharmacists to prescribe contraceptives, we would put birth control within reach of many who otherwise wouldn't have had access."

"This policy will help anyone in New York who wants birth control. Busy parents face specific challenges and creating additional places where they can access contraception can only make their lives easier," said **Sarah Hague, Political Director of Vote Mama Foundation**, an organization working toward gender equity by breaking the barriers mothers face running for office and enabling legislators to pass family-friendly policies. "The ability to have birth control prescribed and dispensed at a pharmacy means just one stop, at a place that has evening and weekend hours and without making an appointment. Vote Mama Foundation is fully behind this common sense legislation."

“Pharmacists are helping to reach individuals who have challenges in accessing clinic based care, such as the uninsured and younger women,” said **Dr. Maria Rodriguez, a leading researcher and Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the OHSU School of Medicine.**

“Contraception is essential health care. Ensuring equitable access to contraception is essential for both individual and community health and development.”

“Pharmacist-prescribed birth control must be truly accessible to everyone. It’s encouraging to see that the New York bill didn’t include any age restrictions and I believe they can develop the strongest and most inclusive policy we have seen yet,” said **Ma’ayan Anafi, Senior Counsel at National Women’s Law Center.**

The **New York Birth Control Access Project (NYBCAP)** is a non-profit organization founded in 2019. Our mission is to break down barriers to birth control so all New Yorkers are able to obtain the birth control they want, when they want it. We are focused on community-based education and advocacy; new policy opportunities; and implementation and uptake of existing laws to improve access to birth control in New York. We are dedicated to identifying gaps in contraceptive access and facilitating efforts that will improve outcomes for patients in the state of New York. To develop these initiatives, we have been assessing the landscape of birth control access in New York, organizing within communities, building relationships with like-minded organizations and exploring current innovative reproductive health care practices and policies.
