



# Annual Supply of Contraception

Included within:

**HB 2370** (Peters)

**SB 929** (Lewis)

## Overview

Private insurance plans in Missouri allow people to receive a 6-month supply of generic contraception or a 90-day supply of brand-name contraception. This is in conflict with provider practice, public health recommendations, and national policy trends. Limiting the supply of contraceptives to these short intervals reduces timely access, creates gaps in use, and increases the likelihood of unintended pregnancy.

This legislation would provide an option to acquire a yearlong supply of birth control at one time for generic or brand-name prescriptions.

## Why is this important?

- **MO HealthNet (Medicaid) already covers up to a one-year supply of birth control in one prescription fill at the pharmacy for generic or brand name medications.**<sup>1</sup> This same benefit should be available to those with private health insurance as well.
- **Access to brand name prescriptions is important for people who may experience allergies to inactive ingredients in generic medications.**<sup>2</sup> Additionally, patents for new, brand-name medications can last up to 20 years, completely blocking patients from being able to access extended supplies of any newer contraceptives on the market.<sup>3</sup> These individuals should have the option of an extended supply like other policy holders.
- **People experience significant barriers accessing and consistently using contraception.** Forty-three percent (43%) of people receiving 3-month increments of birth control will experience a gap of at least 7 days between refills over the course of a year of use.<sup>4</sup> Missing even one pill puts a person at risk for an unintended pregnancy.
- This bill is particularly beneficial to people who live in rural areas or struggle to balance hectic work and parenting schedules.<sup>5</sup>
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Office of Populations Affairs, and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists all recommend annual-supply birth control.<sup>6,7</sup>
- Annual supply of contraception is law in 23 states plus D.C., including Texas, Montana, Tennessee, and West Virginia.<sup>8</sup>
- Annual supply of birth control saves \$87.12 per person and \$2.1 million annually.<sup>4</sup>

**An annual supply of birth control reduces unintended pregnancy by 30%.<sup>10</sup>**



Pills



Patch



Ring



Shot

These methods of birth control work by preventing the ovaries from releasing an egg that could be fertilized and by thickening cervical mucus, helping block sperm from getting to the egg.

All of these methods work by preventing pregnancy from occurring and all have no effect on a pregnancy that has already occurred. None of these drugs cause an abortion.

## Missourians Overwhelmingly Support Annual Supply of Birth Control

A 2023 poll conducted by the Remington Research Group found broad, bipartisan support for annual supply of birth control.<sup>9</sup>

**77% of Missouri residents across the political spectrum believe people should be able to access a yearlong supply of birth control when preferred, including:**

**75% of Republicans • 84% of Independents • 79% of Democrats**

**59% of Missouri Republican primary voters say it would be beneficial for people to be able to obtain an annual supply of birth control.**

### Sources

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9. This survey was conducted in September 2023 by Remington Research Group, an independent research group, and included 806 Missourians likely to vote in the 2024 November election. Margin of error is +/-3.3% with a 95% confidence level.
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