



## Vermont Association of Chain Drug Stores

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**To: Rep. Ann Pugh**

**Cc: House Committee on Human Service**

**From: Vermont Association of Chain Drug Stores  
Heather Shouldice, William Shouldice & Associates LLC**

**Date: February 17, 2020**

**Re: VACDS supports H.752; An act relating to authorizing pharmacists to dispense hormonal contraceptives without a prescription**

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Our Association urges your Committee to pass H752 to expand women's access to contraceptives in pharmacies. Women deserve to receive this convenient, affordable, and quality care at pharmacy healthcare destinations. It isn't clear that contraceptive patches are included in H.752 but we respectfully ask you to ensure they are included.

The data supports passage of H752:

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in 2015-2017, about two-thirds of the 72 million women (ages 15 to 49) in the United States used contraception.<sup>i</sup>
- The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) reports that approximately nearly half of pregnancies are unintended in the United States, which is higher than most similar countries.<sup>ii</sup> Unintended pregnancies result in \$21 billion in healthcare costs annually.<sup>iii</sup>
- To achieve the Healthy People 2020 goal to decrease the rate of unplanned pregnancies,<sup>iv</sup> ACOG has endorsed recommendations to expand access to contraceptives.<sup>v</sup>

Pharmacies offer accessible and affordable care:

- Deemed the most accessible member of the healthcare team, through expanded hours and numerous locations, pharmacists are well-positioned to manage and provide hormonal contraceptives.
- In one state, nearly 74% of patients who received a prescription from their pharmacist had never previously had a contraceptive prescription.<sup>vi</sup>
- By increased access to contraceptives could result in major healthcare savings. For each \$1 spent on publicly funded contraceptives, nearly \$6 could be saved downstream systemwide.<sup>vii</sup>

Vermont should join the 10 states (including Washington, DC)<sup>viii</sup> that have already taken action to provide women with expanded access to contraceptives at pharmacy healthcare destinations.

Currently, 10 states – including Maryland, West Virginia, and Washington, DC – authorize pharmacists to prescribe contraceptives without a collaborative practice agreement.<sup>ix</sup> In addition, every other state in our region has pending Legislation.

*\*VACDS represents traditional drug stores to supermarkets with pharmacies – from regional chains with three stores to national companies. Chains operate more than 40,000 pharmacies across the country and employ more than 3.5 million employees, including 130,000 pharmacists.*

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<sup>i</sup> CDC. Current Contraceptive Status Among Women Aged 15-49: United States, 2015-2017. Updated February 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db327.htm>

<sup>ii</sup> Committee on Healthcare for Underserved Women. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. January 2015 (Reaffirmed 2019). <https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Health-Care-for-Underserved-Women/Access-to-Contraception?IsMobileSet=false>

<sup>iii</sup> Committee on Healthcare for Underserved Women. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. January 2015 (Reaffirmed 2019). <https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Health-Care-for-Underserved-Women/Access-to-Contraception?IsMobileSet=false>

<sup>iv</sup> Committee on Healthcare for Underserved Women. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. January 2015 (Reaffirmed 2019). <https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Health-Care-for-Underserved-Women/Access-to-Contraception?IsMobileSet=false>

<sup>v</sup> Committee on Healthcare for Underserved Women. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. January 2015 (Reaffirmed 2019). <https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Health-Care-for-Underserved-Women/Access-to-Contraception?IsMobileSet=false>

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<sup>viii</sup> Committee on Healthcare for Underserved Women. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. January 2015 (Reaffirmed 2019). <https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Health-Care-for-Underserved-Women/Access-to-Contraception?IsMobileSet=false>

<sup>ix</sup> Committee on Healthcare for Underserved Women. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. January 2015 (Reaffirmed 2019). <https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Health-Care-for-Underserved-Women/Access-to-Contraception?IsMobileSet=false>

