

April 23, 2025

The Honorable Clint Moses, Chair  
The Honorable Robert Brooks, Vice Chair  
House Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care Committee  
Wisconsin State Assembly  
Madison, WI 53702

**RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 43 – PHARMACISTS AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE  
CONTRACEPTIVES**

Dear Chair Moses, Vice Chair Brooks and members of the House Health, Aging and Long-Term Committee:

We thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for Senate Bill 43, a bill allows pharmacists to prescribe and dispense hormonal contraception and self-administered oral contraception. This legislation requires the state's Pharmacy Examining Board, in consultation also includes with the Medical Examining Board, the Board of Nursing and the Department of Health Services to establish protocols for the prescribing of contraceptives with pharmacists. We are proud to support this bill not only because it improves access to critical care but also mandates that the state's Medicaid program covers the contraceptive services that are all within the pharmacists' scope of practice and recognizes them as providers.

NCPA represents the interest of America's community pharmacists, including the owners of more than 19,400 independent community pharmacies across the United States and 247 independent community pharmacies in Wisconsin. These Wisconsin pharmacies filled over 14 million prescriptions last year, impacting thousands of patients in your state. Our members are small business owners who are among America's most accessible healthcare providers, and they provide an expanding set of health care services to millions of patients every day.

Currently at least 21 states have authorized pharmacists to prescribe hormonal contraceptives. In Oregon, this authorization helped the state avert an estimated 51 unintended pregnancies and save \$1.6 million in the first year of implementation.<sup>1</sup> As 45% of pregnancies in the United States are unintended, this expanded access to contraception is critical.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Anderson L, et.al. Pharmacist Provision of Hormonal Contraception in the Oregon Medicaid Population. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2019;133(6):1231-1237. doi: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000003286.

<sup>2</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/contraception/unintendedpregnancy/index.htm#:~:text=In%202008%2C%20women%20reported%20that,higher%20rates%20of%20unintended%20pregnancy.>

Data reported in two studies, conducted by researchers at OHSU and the OSU/OHSU College of Pharmacy and published May 9, 2019, in the journal *Obstetrics and Gynecology* underscores that pharmacist-prescribed contraception is an innovative program that can reach such outcomes. The studies also show that in the first two years after the policy change, pharmacist prescription of contraception averted more than 50 unintended pregnancies and estimated **\$1.6 million** in public costs, such as those required for medical care associated with poor maternal and infant outcomes.

Currently, there are at least **22 U.S. jurisdictions** with statutes or regulations that allow pharmacists to prescribe contraceptives without a collaborative practice agreement: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. The American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG) currently recommends pharmacists as an important step, but also recommends over-the-counter access (OTC), due to relatively low risk of harm, ability to self-screen and even lack of routine exams/diagnostics. As we know, OTC status can take years to occur, but also may be prohibitive based on insurance reimbursement, thus pharmacists' preference for pharmacist-initiated care.

Contraceptive care is well within the profession's scope of knowledge. Pharmacy school requires many weeks-months of education in pharmacy school on this subject. Pharmacists have a long history of supporting the teaching of pharmacotherapy courses for other providers such as physician assistants, nurse practitioners, physicians and other specialists to help support and build the essential knowledge of drug therapy and establish a collaborative nature during the critical years of education.

NCPA supports the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin in their advocacy for this bill. We appreciate the committee's attention to this important issue and urge approval from the committee members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Belawoe Akwakoku". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Belawoe Akwakoku  
Associate Director, State Government Affairs  
National Community Pharmacists Association

