
THURSDAY, FEB. 11, 2016, 1:37 P.M.

House OKs 12-month supplies of birth control pills

OLYMPIA -- Women in Washington would be able to refill their birth control prescriptions yearly, rather than monthly, under a bill that sailed through the House Thursday morning.

Supporters said it was a common sense measure that would cut down on unplanned pregnancies by requiring insurance companies to cover a 12-month supply when a birth control prescription is being refilled. "Consistency in taking birth control leads to effectiveness," Rep. Melanie Stambaugh, R-Puyallup, said.

Rep. Joe Schmick, R-Colfax, said opponents don't object to the idea of a 12-month supply but worried about people who would "scam the system" and thought patients should have a medical checkup after three months.

House Bill 2465, which some had dubbed the "Jumbo Pack Bill" passed on a 91-6, with all the women in the House voting yes. Among the no votes were three Spokane-area lawmakers: Republicans Schmick as well as Matt Shea and Bob McCaslin of the Spokane Valley.

The bill goes to the Senate for further consideration.

POSTED FEB. 11, 2016, 1:37 P.M. in: 2016 Washington Legislature, birth control, government, Joe Schmick, Melanie Stambaugh

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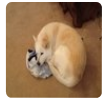
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dandesmond · 12 days ago

How on earth do you "scam" birth control pills? A check up every three months? That's insane? Proves how pro abortion republican men are.

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thatBruceguy → dandesmond · 12 days ago

Well, everyone knows how much fun they are to take, and super addictive... I guess...

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012017_1200 · 11 days ago

Just make contraceptives OTC and be done with it. Worked for allergy and heartburn meds just fine

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coug808 · 12 days ago

I am a pharmacist and I have worked for a pharmacy benefit management (PBM) company for over five years. You know that card in your wallet that you show to the pharmacist, I worked for one of those companies.

This "allowance" of a 365 day supply of a 'birth control' will not be an easy task to program into a plan benefit for Washington residents. Here's why: Let's say you work for a company based in Minnesota, but live in Spokane. The company in Minnesota, will first have to learn about this benefit requirement, then they will have to request to have their benefits updated so that only female employees in Washington can get a 365 day supply of 'birth control' medications. The company will need to know a GPI list or NDC list of medications that will be required for coverage. As new birth control medications come to the market, or go generic, they might have to be added into the coding list of what is approved for a 365 day supply - thus the list might have to be constantly updated on a weekly basis - depending on how the PBM codes the work. Also, copayments will have to be taken into account. Not all birth control is free under the Affordable Care Act! There are many birth control products that still have co-payments! If a woman has to pay, for example, \$30 dollars a month for her brand non-preferred oral contraceptive, will she really want to pay \$360 bucks at once?

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