



612 W. Main Street, #200
Madison, WI 53703

Phone: (608) 256-0827
www.lwwwi.org



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League of Women Voters of WI Support of SB42, AB43

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin (LWVWI) supports SB42/AB43 which permits pharmacists to prescribe certain contraceptives for the following reasons.

Increased access to contraception, empowering people to decide whether and when to become pregnant which, in turn, supports their health, well-being, and bodily autonomy. Thirty states and the District of Columbia currently allow pharmacists to prescribe contraceptives.

Improved medication adherence by reducing barriers to renewing prescriptions that can lead to a lapse in contraceptive use and unintended pregnancy.

Common barriers to accessing contraceptives (often heightened among Black, Indigenous and people of color) can be alleviated with the ability to both receive a prescription and have the medication dispensed in one location.

State-established safety procedures for pharmacists to prescribe contraceptives, including a patient self-assessment questionnaire, blood pressure screening, and age limit of 18, and a requirement for pharmacists to report the prescription to the patient's primary physician.

Requirement for the Department of Health Services to ensure these services are covered under the Medical Assistance program.

Applicable LWVWI Health Care position statements:

- A health care system which is financially and geographically accessible to the residents of the state.
- Selective state involvement in activities to increase the availability of basic health care services in under-served areas.
- State regulation of licensure of healthcare professionals.
- A state role in aiding individuals to make cost-effective and humane choices in health care.

<https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/pharmacist-prescribed-contraceptives>

(2) <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7240351/>

(3) <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36641098/>

(4) <https://nashp.org/state-approaches-to-pharmacist-prescribing-of-hormonal-contraceptives/>