



September 4, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of the State of New York
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

On behalf of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), we are writing to express our strong support for S.6441/A.6917A, legislation that would amend the insurance law, in relation to requiring certain health insurance policies to cover services provided by pharmacists related to contraceptives.

In 2023, New York passed the Birth Control Access Act authorizing pharmacists to dispense and administer contraceptives under a statewide standing order. The next critical step for ensuring that this policy improves access to contraception is to increase uptake among pharmacists. One key policy change to address this is to require payment by private insurance companies for a pharmacist's time in providing the service.

The importance of increasing uptake among pharmacists cannot be overstated. New York has fewer contraceptive providers than most other states in the nation – ranking among Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. Surveys have indicated that when pharmacists are compensated for their time - the same as any other provider - they are more likely to offer these services. In contrast to a predicted 27% primary care doctor shortage in the next decade, pharmacists' numbers are expected to grow.

Pharmacists are among the most accessible health care providers, offering convenient locations and extended hours. Their ability to dispense contraception through the statewide standing order makes the pharmacy a one-stop shop, eliminating the need for appointments and multiple trips. Requiring private insurance coverage will prevent patients from paying out-of-pocket costs, strengthening the equity impact of this policy.

With over 6,000 community pharmacies and 13,000 pharmacists in New York, full implementation of the Birth Control Access Act stands to increase the number of contraceptive prescribers per capita by nearly 80%. Although pharmacists in New York have already begun prescribing contraception, we are certain that requiring payment from private insurers for these services will increase uptake – and will do so at a faster rate.

As we continue to face provider shortages, pharmacists are ready and able to effectively dispense contraceptives through the statewide standing order. However, it is incumbent on the state to ensure pharmacists are compensated for clinical services such as consultations, and assessments in order to increase uptake. We strongly support [S.6441/A.6917A](#) and urge Governor Hochul to sign this legislation into law.