



# ACCESS TO BIRTH CONTROL ACT

HOUSE OVERSIGHT AND REFORM COMMITTEE CHAIRWOMAN CAROLYN B. MALONEY, SENATOR CORY BOOKER, SENATE HELP COMMITTEE CHAIR PATTY MURRAY, REPRESENTATIVE ROBIN KELLY, AND REPRESENTATIVE KATIE PORTER

The Access to Birth Control Act would guarantee patients' timely access to birth control at the pharmacy—including by addressing pharmacies' refusals of contraception that prevent patients from obtaining their preferred form of birth control medication.

According to the National Women's Law Center, pharmacists have refused to fill prescriptions for birth control or provide emergency contraception over the counter to patients in 24 states and the District of Columbia.

In addition, the ongoing coronavirus crisis has exacerbated barriers to contraception access, with one in three women experiencing delays in obtaining their birth control during the pandemic.

The Access to Birth Control Act ensures patients seeking FDA-approved contraception, including emergency contraception and medication related to contraception, are able to access it in a timely manner and not prevented from doing so by a pharmacy.

- If a contraception medication is out of stock, the bill requires pharmacies to either refer the patient to another pharmacy or order the medication, depending on the patient's preference.
- The bill also protects patients from being intimidated, threatened, or harassed by pharmacy employees who personally object to the use of contraception.
- In the event a pharmacy violates one of these requirements, the bill establishes liability for civil penalties for the pharmacy and a private cause of action for patients to seek relief.

The full legislative text of the Access to Birth Control Act can be found [here](#).