

Prescription Denial Bill AB 285 & SB 155

The Prescription Denial Bill allows pharmacists to refuse to dispense certain medications, based upon a personal moral or religious belief. Under these bills, pharmacists could refuse to fill birth control prescriptions because of a religious or personal belief.

The public overwhelmingly opposes bills that allow pharmacists to refuse to dispense certain medications because of their personal beliefs

- In a 2003 poll of 600 voters, 85.4% stated that they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supported a law that would allow a pharmacist, because of his or her personal objection, to deny women access to birth control

The Prescription Denial Bill threatens women's health and well-being

- This bill violates a patient's right to know about and receive all their health care options
- This bill enables pharmacists who oppose birth control to force their beliefs on women and to put their health and well-being at risk.

The Prescription Denial Bill will increase unintended pregnancy and abortion

- Birth control is part of providing basic health care services to women. 625,000 women rely on contraception and 85% of these women rely on oral contraceptives at some point in their lives.
- In the United States, at least 50% percent of pregnancies are unintended and 50% of these pregnancies are terminated.
- This bill would deny women access to referral information on where they could access birth control.
- By further limiting a woman's ability to access her prescribed contraceptives, this bill unnecessarily puts women at risk for unintended pregnancies and the need for abortion.

The Prescription Denial Bill undermines the confidential relationship between doctors and patients and a patient's right to medical privacy

- This bill grants pharmacists the unprecedented power to override a physician's prescribed medical treatment for patients. A pharmacist can essentially **disregard** what is in the patient's best interest by refusing to fill a prescription simply based on a pharmacist's personal objections.
- No woman should have to justify to a pharmacist why she needs access to her doctor prescribed birth control, as this compromises her right to medical privacy.

Fact Sheet

The Prescription Denial Bill harms patients and violates medical ethics

- This bill violates a pharmacist's ethical obligation to refrain from “engaging in any pharmacy practice which constitutes a danger to the health, welfare, or safety of patient or public. . .”
- This bill grants pharmacists the lawful ability to act in a manner that is not in a patient's best interest and elevate the pharmacist's personal belief above patient health care.
- This bill uses words like “conscience clause” and religious freedom. In fact, they discriminate against women by allowing the religious views of a minority to determine the administration of health care for Wisconsin women.
- This bill prohibits patients from suing a pharmacist if the patient suffers a permanent, life-threatening injury because of the pharmacist's refusal to dispense medication based upon a personal belief.

Pharmacists are legally prohibited from dispensing RU 486 or mifepristone, which causes an abortion

- No pharmacist in the United States has the authority to dispense any medication that will terminate a pregnancy, including RU 486. Furthermore, in Wisconsin, state statute mandates that only a physician can dispense for and perform an abortion.