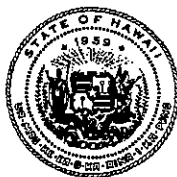


LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
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VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2319
RELATING TO CONTRACEPTIVE SUPPLIES**

SEN. ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: February 2, 2016 Room Number: 229

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None for the Department of Health.
- 2
- 3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the concept of assuring access to
- 4 safe and reliable contraception. However, DOH defers to the Department of Human Services regarding
- 5 implementation issues related to monthly Medicaid eligibility coverage issues and minimizing inefficient
- 6 use of benefit dollars.
- 7
- 8 DOH also urges ongoing discussion and support of Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC) that
- 9 have higher rates of effectiveness, continuations, and satisfaction.
- 10
- 11 **Offered Amendments:** N/A



Hawaii Women's Coalition

Senate Committee on

LATE

DATE: February 2, 2016
TIME: 8:30 a.m
PLACE: Conference Room

Strong Support of SB 2319 that requires insurers to cover a three-month period for the first dispensing of prescription contraceptive supplies to an insured. Requires insurers to cover a 12-month period for the subsequent dispensing of the same contraceptive supply to the insured.

Aloha, Chair Baker and members,

This legislation will go far in reducing barriers that women face when attempting to access consistent and reliable contraception. By guaranteeing women's access to a full 12-month supply of contraception at one time, S.B. 2319 will make contraception more accessible and have the effect of reducing unintended pregnancy.

In this state and, indeed in the nation, we can easily see the harmful effects of limiting women's access to contraception. Hawaii's current practice of only requiring insurance companies to cover 1-3 months of contraception has contributed to Hawaii's high unintended pregnancy rate and corresponding costs to taxpayers. In fact it has been demonstrated that an unwanted pregnancy has high health and social costs attached that can last for a lifetime.

Despite often receiving a 12-month prescription for birth control after consultation with their physicians, current practice requires women to return time and time again to the pharmacist to refill their prescriptions. This means that Hawaii's women must shuffle already demanding schedules to make trips to the pharmacy. For low-income women and those in rural areas, without a nearby pharmacy, regular travel to a pharmacy may become an insurmountable barrier to access.

Birth control is highly effective so long as it is used consistently. So a steady and reliable supply is key to reducing unplanned pregnancy. Dispensing a one-year supply of birth control is associated with a 30 percent reduction in the odds of experiencing an unplanned pregnancy compared with dispensing for 30 or 90 days. By preventing just one unintended pregnancy, an insurer will save the cost of a delivery - a minimum of \$17,400. That is enough savings to pay for 29 additional years of contraception. Just as importantly, it reduces the potential harm to individual families and to the larger society.

Please pass this important bill out of committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,
Ann S. Freed Co-Chair, Hawai'i Women's Coalition
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The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Conference Room 229; 8:30 AM

RE: SB 2319 – Relating to Insurance – IN OPPOSITION

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committee:

CVS Health appreciates the opportunity to testify on SB 2319. The bill, as written, would permit a three-month (90-day) supply on the initial prescription fill for prescription contraceptives. On subsequent fills, irrespective of whether or not the beneficiary may have changed health plans, the bill permits a twelve-month supply of prescription contraceptives to be prescribed and dispensed as one fill.

While CVS Health understands the intent of SB 2319, we have serious concerns with the legislation as presently drafted and for this reason we must oppose SB 2319. Our concerns include:

- On an initial fill of a new prescription drug that will likely be taken on an ongoing basis, it is advisable for the first fill to be a one-month supply in the event the drug does not agree with the patient or turns out to be a drug that he or she cannot tolerate well. In light of those concerns, the potential waste, environmental harm (unused drugs entering the waste stream) and lost revenue that a mandatory three-month initial fill may bring, likely far outweighs any added convenience.
- As a matter of policy, CVS Health opposes mandates that do not allow the employer, Taft-Hartley Trust or state/local program to design their medical and prescription drug benefit as they choose and SB 2319 appears to intercede in that decision making.
- Perhaps most concerning is that since 2010's passage of the Affordable Care Act ('ACA'), contraceptives are required to be covered at a \$0 copay/coinsurance benefit to members. Therefore, no matter how large the days of supply, it doesn't cost the member any additional dollars to pick up, whether monthly or otherwise. This 12-month provision certainly provides an opportunity for a member to stock up on a year's supply before quitting their job or dropping their insurance.

CVS Health proudly operates as the largest pharmacy chain in Hawaii, under our Longs Drugs banner and we also offer our patients and clients a wide range of comprehensive, integrated pharmacy and health operations statewide including: Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) services (CVS/caremark), Specialty Pharmacy (CVS/specialty), Mail-Order and Retail Pharmacy (CVS/pharmacy/Longs Drugs), Retail Health Clinics (CVS/minute clinic) and a distribution center.

We thank you for your consideration of our comments and ask that the Committee hold SB 2319.

Respectfully,

Eric P. Douglas

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: lisak@hmhb-hawaii.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2319 on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM*
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:18:00 AM

SB2319

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Kimura	Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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