

Hinson Bills Strengthening Contraception Options for Women

Expand access to safe, FDA-approved OTC birth control

Increased access to family planning services has proven to reduce the rate of unintended pregnancies, reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, and contribute to improved maternal health outcomes. Being pro-life for Rep. Hinson means supporting life at all stages, and this includes supporting families' choice of timing—and giving women the opportunity to choose when they are ready to start a family. All women should have access to safe and effective birth control—regardless of their zip code.

The Allowing Greater Access to Safe and Effective Contraception Act would:

- Require the FDA to give priority review to already-approved, safe oral contraceptives for routine use so that they can be available over the counter for adult women.
- Require the GAO to conduct a study on the amount of federal funding allocated to supporting increased access to contraception in the last 15 years.
- NOTE: This bill would expand access to OTC birth control (not emergency contraception or drugs also approved for induced abortion) for individuals over 18 years old.

Improving birth control options in rural communities

Millions of women in America safely use oral contraceptives, and allowing women to access birth control pills at their local pharmacy is commonsense policy. Ensuring that women ages 18 and up have access to FDA-approved, routine-use birth control pills is the first step to providing women with the resources to choose safe and effective contraception.

Clinics that receive Title X funding are significantly more likely to offer women the full range of contraception methods, including long-acting reversible contraception (LARCs), onsite at much higher rates than community clinics and CHCs that do not receive Title X funding. This inequality leaves many who live in “health care deserts” unable to receive long-acting birth control such as IUDs or arm implants.

The Access to LARCs Act would:

- Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on barriers for community health centers in rural and underserved areas (health care deserts) to offer various birth control options including reimbursement, inventory stocking, provider training, and patient education and indicating whether the clinics receive Title X funding or not.