



Date: January 16, 2024

To: Chairman Haden and Members of the House Committee on Healthcare Reform

From: Riisa Rawlins, Regional Health Commission

RE: In Support of HB 2190

Dear Chairman Haden and Members of the House Committee on Healthcare Reform,

My name is Riisa Rawlins, and on behalf of the Regional Health Commission (RHC), I am writing in strong support of HB 2190. The RHC is a non-profit organization representing hospital systems, community health centers, non-profits, providers, and patients. The RHC is committed to achieving zero health disparities through a community driven approach that yields health equity in all policy and outcomes. **We ask you to support HB 2190 to expand access to contraception by prioritizing and passing annual-supply birth control legislation.**

HB 2190 would require any health benefit plan in Missouri to reimburse a health care provider or dispensing entity for the dispensing of a supply of self-administered hormonal contraceptives intended to last up to one year. This would increase access to oral contraception to prevent pregnancy. This is crucial because the efficacy of oral contraceptives depends on medication compliance. Providing an annual supply will decrease missed doses and increase medication compliance, resulting in fewer unintended pregnancies.

To achieve our vision of zero health disparities, the RHC prioritizes expanding coverage for the underinsured and uninsured as well as achieving health equity. This legislation would support both these objectives by removing barriers to access to contraception and reinforcing the belief that everyone in our state should have the opportunity to determine if, when, and under what circumstances to get pregnant.

A recent survey released in June of 2023 showed that Missourians are worried about future access to birth control and that there is considerable confusion about its legality. This survey of Missouri residents by the Missouri-based [The Right Time](#) initiative found that 72% of respondents — including 74% of Republicans, 85% of Democrats, and 87% of Independents — think the Missouri state legislature should pass policies that make birth control more affordable and accessible. Furthermore, 25 states already have already implemented this policy.

HB 2190 would increase access to oral contraceptives and promote health equity. Currently, birth control pills are only dispensed for 30 or 90 days. Removing the barrier of having to travel to a pharmacy or clinic every month will result in fewer missed doses, fewer unintended pregnancies and better health outcomes for all.

For the reasons outlined above, we encourage the Committee to pass HB 2160. If you have any additional questions or requests for information, please contact Kate Kasper, Manager of Policy and Advocacy at kkasper@stlrhc.org.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Riisa Rawlins, Interim CEO

Regional Health Commission