



OPPOSE EFFORT TO DENY ILLINOIS WOMEN ACCESS TO BASIC HEALTH CARE – HOUSE BILL 4346

House Bill 4346 (Representative Granberg) denies critical health care options to women by allowing pharmacists to impose their religious and moral beliefs on patients. The legislation would permit pharmacies and pharmacists to refuse to fill valid prescriptions for emergency contraception, injecting their personal views into the realm of the doctor-patient relationship. We urge you to vote **NO** on HOUSE BILL 4346.

The Legislation Unnecessarily Interferes with Patient Rights

HOUSE BILL 4346 permits a pharmacist to override a physician's judgment about the patient's individual healthcare needs and deny her legally prescribed medication based on the pharmacist's personal religious views, not medical judgment. The bill would also permit pharmacies to send such patients away without making any effort to ensure that their prescription gets filled.

The Legislation Denies Critical Treatment for Rape and Incest Victims

HOUSE BILL 4346 provides no exception for victims of rape and incest. Not all sexual assault victims visit an emergency room immediately after an assault has occurred. For these women, access to emergency contraception at a local pharmacy is critical to their efforts to avoid pregnancy resulting from the assault. HOUSE BILL 4346 would allow pharmacies to deny this peace of mind to victims of these heinous crimes.

The Legislation Discriminates Against Women

HOUSE BILL 4346 applies only to emergency contraception. By singling out a drug used **only by women**, HOUSE BILL 4346 discriminates against women. Religious beliefs cannot justify sex discrimination. Pharmacies are obligated to provide patients with legally-prescribed medications. They are in the business of serving the public, and should not be permitted to discriminate against their women customers. HOUSE BILL 4346 makes no provision for a refusing pharmacist to ensure the patient gets her prescription filled. Emergency contraception must be taken within a few days of intercourse in order to be effective. A delay in obtaining emergency contraception caused by a refusal to fill a valid prescription will increase the risk of unintended pregnancy.

The Legislation Fails to Recognize that Emergency Contraception is NOT Abortion

The Food and Drug Administration approved emergency contraception as a method of **preventing pregnancy**. Emergency contraception is simply a high dose of the same medication that is found in birth control pills. It has no effect on an already-existing pregnancy and is NOT an abortifacient.

VOTE NO on HOUSE BILL 4346.