

WOMEN'S HEALTH/REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS ADVOCATES BILLS TO SUPPORT AND OPPOSE

LWV supports HB 1568, which would allow for pharmacists who meet certain requirements to prescribe and dispense hormonal birth contraceptive patches and self-administered oral hormonal contraceptives (birth control pills). The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has long supported moving hormonal birth control from prescription to over the counter, as does the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians. Indiana Planned Parenthood. Alliance Advocates are also supporting this bill. This bill has passed the House and is now in the Senate.

LWV supports SB 252 and SB 266, which would increase access to long-acting reversible contraceptives. SB 252 allows a long-acting reversible contraceptive that is prescribed to and obtained for a Medicaid recipient to be transferred to another Medicaid recipient. SB 266 requires a hospital that operates a maternity unit to ensure that a woman giving birth in this hospital has an option of having a long-acting reversible subdermal contraceptive implanted after delivery and before the woman is discharged. Both of (these bills have passed the Senate and are now in the House.

LWV opposes SB 480, which would ban gender affirming healthcare for minors, prohibiting families and doctors from providing age-appropriate, evidence-based care for youth who require it. This bill is counter to peer-reviewed science, the opinion of the majority of healthcare providers, and the position of most families who engage in this type of care. This bill would be detrimental to the mental health and well-being of transgender youth. This bill has passed the Senate and has been referred to the House committee on Public Health.

LWV supports SB 4 (Public Health Commission) which passed with a vote of 41-7 and is now in the Senate Public Health Committee.

- Indiana underfunds public health, with 88 counties spending less than a quarter of the national average on their residents.
- This bill provides that the state department may provide district or regional services to local health departments. Requires each local board of health to establish a local public health services fund to receive state funding.
- Gov. Eric Holcomb is pursuing \$120 million in fiscal year 2024 and another \$227 million in fiscal year 2025 to increase public health services across the state.

*Pam Locker, Joanne Evers, Bri Glidden, Betsy Kachmar, Sara Ofner-Seals
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