



COSPONSORS

Rep. Conor Lamb (D-PA) is the original cosponsor of the ACE Veterans Act. For the most recent complete list of cosponsors, click [here](#).

BACKGROUND

Evidence highlights the potential for reduced contraceptive gaps and improved reproductive outcomes through dispensation of longer-term supplies of contraceptives. A recent [study](#) published in JAMA Internal Medicine found that a 12-month dispensing option for oral contraceptive pills at the VA could reduce unintended pregnancies among women veterans and produce substantial cost savings for the VA.

In addition to influencing national and international medical guidelines, this evidence has influenced recent state-level legislative efforts. 17 states and the District of Columbia now [require](#) insurers to cover a full-year supply of oral contraceptives. As the largest integrated health care system in the United States, the VA is uniquely positioned to implement a similar evidence-based policy change on a national scale.

The Access to Contraception Expansion for Veterans (ACE Veterans) Act gives veterans the option to receive a full-year supply of short-acting hormonal contraceptives at the VA. Providers will also be required to inform women veterans of their ability to choose a full-year supply over the previous limit of 3 months.

Refilling an oral contraceptive supply every three months can be a significant burden for women veterans. A [study](#) on adherence to hormonal contraception among women veterans found that more than 64% of women who received contraceptive supplies from the VA experienced at least 1 gap of at least 7 days between refills during the course of a year of use. Missing more than 2 consecutive contraceptive pills can increase a woman's chance of contraceptive failure and the potential for unintended pregnancy.

Unintended pregnancy has been linked to adverse health effects including maternal depression and intimate partner violence, maternal tobacco and alcohol use during pregnancy, low birth weight, preterm birth, and infant mortality.

ENDORISING ORGANIZATIONS

The ACE Veterans Act is endorsed by the Service Women's Action Network (SWAN) and AMVETS.

CONTACT

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