

ATTACHMENT 6, S 1234 FEBRUARY 1, 2024 - WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name (First & Last)	Subject	Manner Testifying	Representing Company/Organization	City	For / Against	Wish to Testify	District #
Savannah Haddocck	S 1234	W	Self	Pocatello	For	N	29

As a lifelong Idaho resident, I have a deep love and connection to my home state. My family has lived here for generations, and I hope to one day settle down and raise my children here as well. This is why I am willing to advocate on behalf of this bill, to improve Idaho one small step at a time for our communities. As a woman suffering from Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome, a hormonal disorder that affects my day-to-day life, birth control is one of the few medications prescribed to help me with my condition. By making birth control far more accessible within our state, Idahoan women like me will be able to live their lives in a much more fulfilling and meaningful way. Birth Control is a miracle in many aspects, and it allows women greater freedoms in our society. Without birth control, I wouldn't be nearly as functional as I am, as birth control helps regulate my hormone imbalance, giving me the energy I need that is often taken from me due to my disorder. By approving this bill, the Idaho State Legislature will be helping hundreds if not thousands of Idahoan women with accessing one of the few medications available for this condition.

Joseph Crupper	S 1234	W	Self	POCATELLO	For	N	29
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Legislators,

I am writing in favor of SB 1234.

I have a sister. I am afraid for her safety in this state. The anti-abortion laws that have passed have made pre-natal care a toxic environment to navigate. I've learned that 1 in 4 women report having missed pills because they could not get their next pack in time. I do not want her to experience a pregnancy without prior planning.

Our family's plan is to move her out of state if she becomes pregnant. We cannot risk her life with the system that has been established since Dobbs. I would rather she have consistent access to birth control and not become pregnant rather than upend her entire life.

Please vote YES for SB 1234.

Ann Giantvalley	S 1234	W	Self	Sandpoint	For	N	1
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Providing women with six months of birth control at a time is a no brainer. Personally, I think a year's supply would be better but six months of birth control as a way to prevent pregnancy is most helpful to women and their partner and family. Let's make it easy for working women, busy mothers with families to not have to go to a pharmacy so frequently or wait for a prescription in the mail. Show your support for women and families by supporting this legislation to allow six months of birth control to be permitted.

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Ann Giantvalley	cont.						1
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Ann Giantvalley

Gretchen Wissner	S 1234	W	self and husband	Moscow	For	N	6
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Please vote YES on S 1234

My husband and I are writing in full support of S 1234. Given Idaho's ban on abortion, easy access to a six-month supply of contraceptives seems both logical and compassionate. It will decrease the number of unintended pregnancies, and it will save both women and insurance companies money in the long term.

Please vote to support this important aspect of women's reproductive health care.

Gretchen Wissner
Jim Miller
Moscow

LINDA LARSON	S 1234	W	Self	Sandpoint	For	N	1
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Dear Senate Commerce Committee,

Please enter this into the public record for written testimony in favor of S1234.

Please vote YES for S1234 which allows someone to access up to 6 months of their prescription contraception instead of being limited to 3 months, as most health insurers currently do. Increased access to contraception increases adherence which increases effectiveness.

This is a common sense approach to reducing unplanned pregnancies which in turn reduces abortion rates. If we are serious about reducing abortion, we must be serious about doing everything we can to support women and this is one such case.

Women struggle to find the time to get into the pharmacy every three months to keep critical prescriptions filled. I know I do and I am retired and have no children to care for.

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LINDA LARSON	<i>cont.</i>						1

Please help women reduce unplanned pregnancies by supporting S1234.

Thank you.
 Ms. Linda Larson
 607 S Division Ave, Sandpoint, ID 83864
 208-255-6855

NADINE DILWORTH	S 1234	W	self	Sandpoint	For	N	1
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S1234 just makes sense. There are no justifications for voting against this bill. Why should individuals be required to make unnecessary visits to their providers and pharmacists?

Birth Control pills not only prevent unwanted pregnancies, they are also used to treat health conditions such as endometriosis. This bill if passed will make women's lives just a little bit easier.

Bruce Spencer	S 1234	W	Mountain Health COOP	Boise	Against	N	16
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I represent the Mountain Health COOP which insures members in Idaho on the Your Health Idaho exchange.

The Mountain Health COOP (MHC) was formed pursuant to the Affordable Care Act. (ACA) MHC weathered tough times but with good solid fiscally conservative management remains one of three existing COOPs in the United States.

MHC currently has 5,900 members in Idaho. MHC remains committed to providing competition in the Idaho marketplace.

MHC by its charter and federal law must use remaining funds after expenses to either lower premium to its members, improve benefits, or improve members healthcare outcomes. This mandate is unlike any other insurer in Idaho.

In improving benefits for its members MHC has a unique prescription drug program. It offers over 250 prescription drugs with no out of pocket expense to its members, zero cost share, zero co-pay. These include high cost drugs such as insulins and inhalers.

MHC believes this has contributed to a better state of health for its members, fewer hospitalizations and emergency room visits, and none of it has seriously impaired its financial results.

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Bruce Spencer	<i>cont.</i>						16

How does MHC do that?

In each category of certain drugs there are multiple manufacturers. MHC uses the free market system to create opportunity to negotiate a lower cost with one single manufacturer in each category. In brand name categories MHC uses its small pharmacy benefit manager to negotiate the best price for its membership.

Contraceptives are also a part of MHC negotiations with manufacturers and MHC has a contraceptive in its formulary (a list of drugs MHC will cover) in each category.

S1234 mandates a 6 month supply, but does not limit this mandate to covered drugs. MHC respectfully requests that the Committee amend the bill by inserting the word "covered" before "drugs" on Page 1 Line 15 of the bill.

This change will permit MHC to use its formulary to reduce the cost of contraceptives to its members.

Chelsea Maude	S 1234	V	Self	Moscow	For	Y	6
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Good morning, my name is Chelsea Maude and I currently live in Moscow, Idaho. I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 1234 which would decrease the number of barriers I face monthly in receiving my oral contraceptive medication. There have been several issues I've faced in trying to obtain my oral contraception, specifically in the past year. Issues include: moving and establishing care in a new city, not having enough medication while traveling, being told my prescription was on back-order, my prescription taking a longer time to process when the pharmacy is understaffed, and continuous technology issues when requesting a re-fill which my provider has ordered. If I was able to obtain my prescription for up to 6 months, this would help alleviate some of the barriers mentioned above. As a one-income household with my spouse in graduate school, family planning is very important to us at this stage of our lives. It is imperative to receive my oral contraception medication on time with as minimal barriers as possible. Thank you for your time, unfortunately I do not have time for questions.

Nancy Britton	S 1234	W	self	Ponderay	For	N	1
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This is an important and practical bill that eases access to their birth control, particularly for rural women whose pharmacies are less easily accessed, saving both time and gas money. We all know that being able to obtain several months at a time (six months in this

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Nancy Britton

cont.

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case!) saves money for both the women and their insurance companies over time. Please support S1234!

Todd Swanson

S 1234

W

Self

Boise

For

N

19

I write as a retired family practice physician and former Program Director of the Family Practice Residency of Idaho.

I am in favor of this bill as the best way to avoid unwanted pregnancy is to have easily available birth control. We allow medication for up to a year for other medicines; it is time to increase the period for birth control pill supplies as well. The easier we make it, the fewer unwanted pregnancies we will have. I believe it is important to free women to make their own decisions on when to have their family.

My best
Todd Swanson, MD, MPH

Dr. Julia Bouchard

S 1234

IP

Self

Boise

For

Y

19

I am a retired Ob/gyn from Boise. This bill is of interest to me because I dedicated 35 years to providing healthcare for women. I delivered hundreds of your constituents maybe even your family members. I have also had insurance that covers one month of a prescription at a time.. I have personally experienced missing doses due to problems at the pharmacy or getting to the pharmacy. Birth control pills come in packets for 28 days-this means 13 trips to the pharmacy per year. Many Idahoans live in a pharmacy desert, and those that don't are dealing with stores that are short staffed and have limited hours. With birth control pills, a missed dose increases the chances of an unintended pregnancy or recurrence of medical problems, such as ovarian cysts, that the pill is being used to treat. I am asking you to support S 1234 to provide continuous contraception to those who choose this method.

Thank you for your time and service.

Eileen Gale Swanson S 1234

W

Self

Boise

For

N

19

I am for this bill. Having been a Women's Nurse Practitioner for almost 30 years, I can attest to the fact that providing consistent birth control to women leads to healthier lives and fewer unintended pregnancies. It is well documented that any form of birth control benefits women and society, and not just in the form of birth control pills. Many women use 'birth control' for other medical reasons than to prevent pregnancy, along with using most any form of birth control to plan and space pregnancies. In fact, this bill really should

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Eileen Gale Swanson	cont.						19
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have been written to promote a year's worth of contraceptive supplies. Finally, it is noted that this state has one of the most restrictive abortion policy's on the books. Use of any form of birth control decreases the number of pregnancies; fewer pregnancies lead to fewer abortions; and fewer pregnancies save this state money in often having to support a child for the next 18 years. It is SIMPLE; give women access to consistent birth control. You may not care about women's rights, but you do care about your pocketbook and your moral values.

Clarice Mckenney	S 1234	W	Self	Bonnors Ferry	For	N	1
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As a mother, grandmother and taxpayer, I strongly favor women of all childbearing ages being able to have access to contraceptives and other means of birth control in addition to the old-fashioned "rhythm" method. A six-month supply is superior in every way to the current few months worth at a time. Sincerely,
Clarice Mckenney

Vickie Fadness	S 1234	W	Self	Lewiston	For	N	7
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Please Support S1234 Insurance
This is a wonderful bill written to prevent unplanned pregnancies and avoid pregnancies resulting from rape. As I understand the bill, it extends contraceptive control from one to three months to six months. Women can thereby depend on their contraception with fewer interruptions.
Please Support S1234 Insurance with a Yes vote.
Thank you,
Vickie Fadness

Laurel Bake	S 1234	W	Self	Troy	For	N	6
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I encourage you to support S 1234. Requiring women to pick up prescription contraceptives in small increments is onerous and acts as a barrier to access, especially for those in rural areas.
1. It is a 40 mile round-trip to our nearest pharmacy, which typically has long lines, so each trip costs \$5-10 in gas plus 1.5+ hours of my time - and I am not even that rural!

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Laurel Bake	<i>cont.</i>						6
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2. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recommends an annual periodic visit for well-woman care. Women do not typically receive education or compliance information from their doctor between periodic visits. In my experience, the counseling given by a pharmacist is given at the first pick-up, with counseling offered but not required for refills. I say all this to point out that reducing touch points between a woman and her pharmacist seems unlikely to result in any reduction in the information exchanged, especially since the bill specifically addresses allowing for smaller amounts to establish satisfaction with initial prescriptions.

3. Forcing the pick-up of contraceptives in small increments increases the risk of non-compliance; if a woman forgets or is unable to pick up her contraceptives on time, the likelihood of improper usage increases dramatically. Hormonal contraceptives require accurate adherence to timing to function properly; missing a few days is a recipe for unwanted pregnancy, which is a scenario elected officials on both sides of the aisle ostensibly wish to avoid.

4. Economic sense dictates that any time you can buy/sell something in bulk or reduce administrative touch-points, end user cost decreases and profitability increases. This seems like a financial win-win for all parties in the transaction.

Prescription contraceptives are safe and are not controlled substances. This is a common-sense reform that is likely to have a positive public health impact while giving back time and money that Idahoan women don't need to waste.

Sincerely,
Laurel Bake
Troy, ID

Naomi Trueman	S 1234	W	Self	Boise	For	N	15
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I am for Senate Bill 1234. I am a student at Boise State and have lived in Idaho for a very large portion of my life. I have also been lucky enough to have consistent access to contraceptives that keep me protected from unwanted pregnancies. Not everyone with a uterus is in the same position I am in. Having more expansive contraceptive healthcare in the state of Idaho can not only help people feel safer when moving through the world, it can also make it easier to be deliberate when planning for a family. I care very deeply about reproductive rights, and it has been very painful to watch it become harder and harder for women to get access to medical care that can help keep them safe and help them move through the world with total control of their bodies and their choices. I urge you to vote yes for SB 1234 and help provide Idaho constituents with healthcare that they deserve.

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Mary Jo Hamilton	S 1234	W	self	Moscow	For	N	6
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Allowing the purchase of oral contraception for 6 months at a time will save time and reduce the risk of unintended pregnancies due to unanticipated difficulties in getting the prescription filled.

Loren Colson	S 1234	IP	Idaho Coalition for Safe Healthcare	Boise	For	Y	19
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My name is Loren Colson, I live in District 19 and am a family physician practicing in Boise, Idaho. I am also co-President of the Idaho Coalition for Safe Healthcare, a non-profit organization focused on safe, accessible, and evidence-based healthcare that is currently comprised of nearly 600 physicians, nurses, health care professionals, and community members across the state. I am writing in support of S1234.

Access to birth control is crucial to prevent unwanted pregnancies. The Kaiser Family Foundation performed a study in 2022 that found that more than a third of reproductive-age females who use oral birth control pills have missed taking it on time because they were unable to get their next supply. Again, that's one in three women. Furthermore, studies have shown that the greater number of contraceptive pill packs that are provided to a patient is associated with increased rate of continuation. So the answer is simple. If you want to do something to prevent unwanted pregnancies, give women more access to birth control pills.

From a medical standpoint, it is perfectly safe to prescribe 6 months of birth control pills at one time. When first prescribing birth control, no physical examination is necessary, but we do make sure that it is safe for them to take by reviewing their medical history and checking vitals. After that, no routine follow-up appointments are required! We may periodically check in if needed to make sure everything is going okay and that there haven't been any changes to their health status, but that's it.

As a family physician, a lot of what I do is offer birth control to my patients. I ask every patient of reproductive potential if they plan on becoming pregnant, and if the answer is no, I routinely counsel people on their birth control options. I know very well the safety and efficacy of different types of birth control, and I'm telling you from data and first-hand experience, this bill will help prevent unwanted pregnancies. As a physician, I urge you to pass S1234 so that we can give Idahoan what they deserve, top-tier medical care.

Dorothy Buening	S 1234	W	self as a Family Medicine Resident Physician and woman of reproductive age	Boise	For	N	18
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Chairman Cook and members of Commerce and Human Resources Committee,

My name is Dr Dorothy Buening, MD. I am a Family Medicine physician in Boise, ID. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1234 on behalf of my patients, specifically those whom I prescribe contraception for.

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Dorothy Buening	<i>cont.</i>						18

As a Family Medicine doctor, the foundation of my practice is to empower my patients to live healthy lives both with medication and nonmedication treatments. One common form of medication treatment that I commonly prescribe for preventive care is contraception of many forms. Today, I am focusing on combined hormonal contraception options including "the pill", ring, and patch as these require regular prescriptions for daily or weekly use and would be affected by Senate Bill 1234.

Contraception is preventive care, meaning that it is similar to colon cancer screening and diabetes management in my medical practice. It empowers women to take control of their health allowing them to work and play active roles in their families. Contraception is most commonly used for pregnancy prevention, but there are many other indications for these medications including decreased severity of menstrual symptoms and treatment of other distressing and painful medical conditions such as PCOS, endometriosis, severe acne.

Longer duration of covered medication increases adherence and decreases negative outcomes of unwanted pregnancy, missed workdays, and inability to effectively care for their families which affects not only Idaho women but also children and families and thus Idaho society.

As a healthcare provider my job is to provide my patients with safe options for family planning and all other medical care. Contraception is safe, effective, and wanted by the women of Idaho to keep themselves and in turn their families healthy. I ask that you assist me in ensuring safe and increased access to contraception for the women of Idaho and vote in support of Senate Bill 1234.

Thank you.

Katharine Roser	S 1234	W	Self	Sandpoint	For	N	1
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I am FOR S 1234, adding to existing law that health benefit plans and student health benefit plans covering prescription contraception must provide reimbursement for a six-month supply except under certain circumstances.

This would eliminate an unreasonable burden for women to have to travel more often to obtain prescription contraception; it would decrease the odds of unintended pregnancies; and and would save women, their insurance companies, and the taxpayers money.

Please support this bill.

Thank you,
Katharine Roser

Name (First & Last)	Subject	Manner Testifying	Representing Company/Organization	City	For / Against	Wish to Testify	District #
Katharine Roser	cont.						1

Janet Roscoe	S 1234	W	Self	Boise	For	N	19
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I am a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and have worked in gynecology for 20+ years. I have been at St. Lukes for over 10 of those years. I have dedicated my career to helping young women take control of their reproductive health/family planning. In my experience as a provider, prescription renewals and trips to the pharmacy can be notable barriers for many women trying to continue their birth control method with no gaps. (And NO gaps = BETTER efficacy & less unplanned pregnancies!) Also, access to gynecology care in Idaho was historically challenging, but with the COVID pandemic & now our difficulty staffing OB/GYN providers, the ability to schedule patients for a timely visit is becoming nearly impossible. (And DELAYED scheduling = gaps in birth control!) In addition, pharmacies are now often operating with limited schedules (hard to get pharmacists!) or closing unexpectedly (as one did last month for a number of my patients). Mandating coverage for 6 months at a time will greatly reduce the number of hoops patients need to jump through to stay on track. As the provider, I will decide if the method/prescription is reasonable & safe for the patient, and then the insurance companies will be the ones to simplify coverage/access.

I strongly support S1234 and its provision for SIX MONTHS of a birth control prescription.

Vickie Nostrant	S 1234	W	Self	Lewiston	For	N	7
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Passing 1234 would better assist women in continuity of preventing pregnancy. Also increases convenience to women in rural Idaho where access can be very limited.

Heather Stout	S 1234	W	Self	Moscow	For	N	6
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I am writing in favor of S123 as any legislation that helps women decrease the odds of experiencing an unintended pregnancy is a good one. this legislation will also save women and their insurance companies money. Access for women in rural areas, especially those in which pharmacy's are not to close or easy to get to is imperative. This legislation will enable these women to be able to get the prescriptions they need. Please vote in favor of S1234.

Name (First & Last)	Subject	Manner Testifying	Representing Company/Organization	City	For / Against	Wish to Testify	District #
Kathy Dawes	S 1234	W	Self	Moscow	For	N	6

Members of the House Health and Welfare Committee,

In order to eliminate unwanted pregnancies and abortions, providing greater access to birth control is one of the best, if not THE best way to do that. But birth control is not effective if its use is not continuous, but is interrupted by frequent, required visits to a pharmacy.

Therefore, I am extremely supportive of Bill S 1234 to provide better access to birth control by allowing patients to receive up to 6 months of medication at a time. The greater access to several months' supply means a greater chance of continuation of use to prevent unwanted pregnancies. On their website, the CDC actually recommends prescribing multiple cycles ("ideally a full year's supply") of contraceptives in order to facilitate consistent use. However, a 6-month supply is certainly better than what is provided now.

Please vote YES on Bill S 1234. Thank you.

Amy Whaley	S 1234	W	Self	Nampa	For	N	10
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I am for this bill. Saves trips to the pharmacy. Also saves time for pharmacies (like many businesses are having a hard time be fully staffed). I appreciated being able to pick up an entire year's supply of birth control when I went to college in Washington State. Not having to worry about figuring out when to fit in a trip to the pharmacy every few months was a relief.

Dana Dawes	S 1234	W	Myself and my wife	Moscow	For	N	6
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Members of the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee,

We are totally in favor of providing at least a 6-months supply of birth control to women who want to avoid an unplanned, unwanted pregnancy. Continuous use is more likely to happen, and could even save money for women if they don't have to make several trips to a pharmacy, sometimes at great distance from their home.

Please vote YES on Bill S 1234. Thank you

Kathleen Crouch	S 1234	W	Self	Sandpoint	For	N	1
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I urge you to please support this bill to allow women to have access to birth control for up to 6 months. I know many young women who need to have this option available to them through their insurance. Thank you for your work!

Name (First & Last)	Subject	Manner Testifying	Representing Company/Organization	City	For / Against	Wish to Testify	District #
Marilyn Beckett	S 1234	W	Self	Moscow	For	N	6

I am in favor of women being able to get an extended prescription for birth control medication. I think a 6 month prescription should be considered as well as a 9 month prescription. Not all women need this length of medication regimen depending on their individual situations, but the flexibility should be built-in for this and any "maintenance" pharmaceutical prescribed by a physician.