

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

Part 1 of article 22 of title 12, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

12-22-122.5. LIMITED PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION.

(1) THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO HEREBY FIND AND DECLARE THAT:

(A) EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION IS EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING A WOMAN'S CHANCE OF BECOMING PREGNANT WHEN TAKEN WITHIN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY HOURS AFTER UNPROTECTED SEXUAL INTERCOURSE. EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION PREVENTS PREGNANCY BEFORE IT OCCURS AND DOES NOT CAUSE AN ABORTION OR HAVE ANY EFFECT ON AN EXISTING PREGNANCY.

(B) INCREASED ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES AND THEREBY REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF ABORTION. THE PURPOSE OF THIS STATUTE IS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION BY PERMITTING WOMEN TO SEEK PRESCRIPTIONS DIRECTLY FROM LICENSED PHARMACISTS.

(2) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO EXTEND PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY TO LICENSED PHARMACISTS ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESCRIBING EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION AND NOT FOR ANY OTHER PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES. IT IS FURTHER THE INTENT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO THAT THE DURATION OF THIS LIMITED GRANT OF AUTHORITY SHALL EXTEND ONLY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION BECOMES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC WITHOUT THE REQUIREMENT OF A PRESCRIPTION.

(3) FOR PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION" MEANS ANY DRUG APPROVED BY THE FEDERAL FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION THAT PREVENTS PREGNANCY AFTER SEXUAL INTERCOURSE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ORAL CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS CLEARLY MARKETED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTING PREGNANCY; EXCEPT THAT "EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION" SHALL NOT INCLUDE RU-486, MIFEPRISTONE, OR ANY OTHER DRUG THAT INDUCES A MEDICATION ABORTION.

(4) ON AND AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, A PHARMACIST SHALL BE AUTHORIZED BUT SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO PRESCRIBE EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION.

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