



February 23, 2017

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker  
Chairwoman  
Hawaii State Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Room 230  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairwoman Baker:

**The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Hawaii Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (HAOPS) are writing to urge you to reconsider your support for SB 513.** This bill would expand the scope of practice for pharmacists by allowing them to independently prescribe and dispense self-administered hormonal contraceptives. We are opposed to this expansion of practice rights because the bill lacks appropriate increases in education, training and competency demonstration requirements that protect patients. The AOA and HAOPS also believe that removing physician involvement from patient care could place the health and safety of Hawaii's patients at risk.

The AOA represents nearly 130,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students, promotes public health, encourages scientific research, serves as the primary certifying body for DOs and is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools. More information on DOs/osteopathic medicine can be found at [www.osteopathic.org](http://www.osteopathic.org). HAOPS is a professional medical organization that represents over 300 DOs providing patient care in Hawaii.

While we value the contributions of pharmacists to the health care delivery system, we believe any expansion of their authority to provide direct patient care without appropriate oversight should be directly related to additional education and competency demonstration requirements.

**Risks of hormonal contraception include:**

- **Serious side effects** including: blood clots, stroke and death.
- **Increased risk of depression;** A study published last year in the *Journal of the American Medical Association Psychiatry* also found that using hormonal contraception increased women's risk of developing depression by 23 percent overall, and nearly doubled the risk for teenagers.<sup>1</sup>

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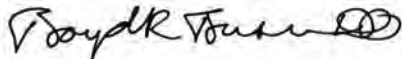
<sup>1</sup> Rodriguez, Carmen Heredia. "Large Danish Study Links Contraceptive Use to Risk of Depression." *Kaiser Health News*, Sept. 28, 2016. Available at: <http://khn.org/news/large-danish-study-links-contraceptive-use-to-risk-of-depression/>.

**In order to ensure patient safety:**

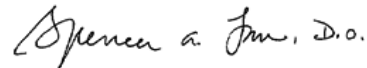
- **Ongoing and continuous physician involvement is necessary**, as these risks highlight, in the evaluation of patients on contraceptives.
- **The only way to ensure delivery of high quality health care and patient safety** is to maintain a high level of ongoing evaluation and physician involvement.

Expanding the scope of practice for pharmacists to prescribe contraceptives without appropriate oversight and commensurate increases in education and competency demonstration requirements could place patient safety and the public at risk. **We urge you to protect the safety of Hawaii's patients by reconsidering your support for SB 513**. Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nick Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, State Government Affairs at [nschilligo@osteopathic.org](mailto:nschilligo@osteopathic.org) or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

Sincerely,



Boyd R. Buser, DO  
President, AOA



Spencer Lau, DO  
President, HAOPS

CC: Mark A. Baker, DO, AOA President-elect  
William J. Burke, DO, Chair, AOA Department of Governmental Affairs  
Richard Thacker, DO, Chair, AOA Bureau of State Government Affairs  
Adrienne White-Faines, MPA, AOA Chief Executive Officer  
Laura Wooster, MPH, Senior Vice President, AOA Public Policy  
Nicholas Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, AOA State Government Affairs  
Samyuktha Gumidyala, Affiliate Executive, HAOPS

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 12:09 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** Heather@Epic-changes.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB513 on Feb 24, 2017 09:30AM\*

**Categories:** Late (Printed)

**SB513**

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 24, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Heather Blodgett	Epic-Interventions LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee  
On Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health (CCPH)  
Friday, Feb. 24, 2017 at 9:30 am

By

Your name

SB 513 - Relating to Contraceptive Supplies

The Honorable: Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the committee:

I am writing to offer **strong support** of HB 513 that will allow pharmacists to prescribe and dispense self-administered hormonal contraceptive supplies to patients.

Pharmacists are trained specifically in medication management, monitoring and assessment specifically in areas of contraceptive hormonal therapy and women's health. Pharmacists are the most accessible health professional to the public via their availability in community pharmacies and are also health educators and advocate for their patient's health and safety.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 8:37 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** jgustina@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB513 on Feb 24, 2017 09:30AM\*

**Categories:** pdf'd, Late (Printed)

**SB513**

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June Gustina	Individual	Support	No

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