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Delight yourself in the Lord  
and he will give you the desires of  
your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him and he will do this.

*Psalm 37:4-5*

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Mark McClellan, M.D.  
Commissioner of the FDA  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Doctor McClellan:

I am a practicing obstetrician and gynecologist in Amarillo Texas. I am opposed to emergency contraception being allowed over-the-counter, which would allow many young women to bypass physician visits and deprive them of needed STD testing, pap smears, and counseling. As you are aware, teenagers are especially susceptible to STDs more so than older women and it will be the teenager who will suffer in the future from undiagnosed tubal disease and infertility. In addition, I believe that peer pressure could allow teenagers more opportunity to have sex knowing that an over-the-counter contraception is available. I believe that this would be very harmful to the teenage public and would lead to increased sexual activity. In fact I believe that this would become the new capitalized date rape drug surpassing ecstasy in usage. It would also become a legal nightmare as to who would be responsible for complications i.e. the woman who takes emergency contraception who has an ectopic pregnancy.

In summary, I strongly appose to making the emergency contraception available over-the-counter.

Sincerely,

Wendell B. Ashby, M.D.

WBA/dc

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