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02-06-04A10:04 RCVD

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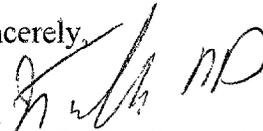
February 3, 2004

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

Dear Dr. McClellan:

During your evaluation and prior to finalizing your decision to make emergency contraception available OTC, please consider how little GYN care teenagers avail themselves to and how fast HIV risk is escalating in this population. Our children are under great pressure to engage in sex prior to adulthood. Please do not add to their burden. Most certainly there will be a large television campaign if and when emergency contraception goes over the counter and it is not far fetched to think that this product would become the teenagers contraception method of choice. As a result, our teenagers will be completely unsupervised in this contraceptive practice and without mature consideration this situation will be fully loaded with consequences. Act now and assist me in the health care of our children and decide against making emergency contraception available over the counter.

Sincerely,



Joseph R Tiralla, M.D.
OB/GYN Practitioner of 24 years
Prince Frederick, Maryland

cc: Steny Hoyer, Congressman
401 Post Office Road
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