

# PHYSICIANS EAST, P.A.

PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE TO EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

January 29, 2004

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

Dear Dr. McClellan,

As an Obstetrician/Gynecologist committed to the healthcare of women, I am writing to express my opposition to the making of emergency contraception available without prescription and over the counter. I feel that should this be allowed, it would be extremely harmful particularly to younger teenagers. The availability of OTC emergency contraception will result in immediate increased pressure for young teens to be sexually promiscuous. That pressure will come particularly from young males who will be in a position to pressure them to have intercourse with the false assumption that it will be "without consequence". While emergency contraception may prevent pregnancy, it will do nothing to prevent the other consequences of promiscuity, including sexually transmitted disease, dysplasia, and the psychologic consequences that come with promiscuity. I see this daily in my practice as I care for women who have been sexually intimate and then suffered the consequences of being left by their consort.

The provision of OTC contraception will remove the opportunity for counseling of these sexually active young women. This is a great opportunity not only to screen them for sexually transmitted disease, but institute a positive and beneficial physician/patient relationship. The public health implications on our society of not having this physician/patient relationship cannot be overstressed.

Please contribute to the health of our nation by not approving the OTC use of emergency contraception.

Sincerely,



Frank L. Gay, M.D., FACOG  
FLG/ksc 1/29/04 10:10 AM

XC: American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Attn: John Gibbons Jr., M.D., President  
409 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20090-6920

Ralph Hale  
Executive Vice President  
American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology

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