

**St. Philip Neri Church**  
**15 Prospect Avenue**  
**Northport, NY 11768**

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February 19, 2004

Commissioner Mark B. McCellan, M.D.  
Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Commissioner McCellan:

I urge you to oppose making "emergency contraception" available without a prescription. The swift and politically motivated approval of the abortion drug RU-486 without the safeguards required in other countries has already been deadly to some women as well as to countless babies. Hopefully, the FDA will learn from the experience, and consider the welfare of women and young teenagers rather than the agenda of Planned Parenthood.

The health risks of non-prescription "emergency contraception" are serious. Regions where "emergency contraception" has been introduced without prescription have not experienced a reduction in abortion rates but have experienced an increase in sexually transmitted diseases. **Young girls will have ready access to mega-doses of hormonal medication which could be used to cover-up instances of sexual abuse or dangerous promiscuous behavior without the involvement of a doctor or parent.**

Also, of great concern to me, in some cases "emergency contraception" may destroy an already existing embryo by preventing implantation. Women deserve the truth about the drug, its methods of action, and its effects. For these reasons I respectfully ask you to reject the proposal to make "emergency contraceptive" (Plan B-levonorgestrel) available without a prescription.

Sincerely,

The 10 Members of the Respect Life Committee

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