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July 10, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

I was recently informed that your organization was considering making birth control pills an over the counter drug, (Docket No. 00N-1256.)

I really feel there are too many risks involved for them to be made so accessible. Because of its functions, a drug of this kind needs to be prescribed by a doctor. Birth control pills alter hormone levels and natural reproductive functions, and with so many different kinds available, there are various side effects to consider with each one. A woman's medical history and condition need to be considered and evaluated by a doctor. It would be unwise for a woman to take a drug like this if she has any medical history or is on any other kind of medication.

Also, many minors would have access to these without the knowledge of their parents or the advice of a doctor. Birth control pills could have serious side effects on a young girls developing physical body. I feel it is like giving them another free pass to engage in sexual activity. Because birth control pills are not protective against sexually transmitted diseases, I believe there would be a big increase in the case amount of diseases as well. This is not something our young people should be able to decide for themselves. They need the careful instruction and guidance of a parent and a doctor.

For these reasons, I ask you to please reconsider your position on making birth control pills an over the counter drug. I know your organization considers safety above anything else, and I thank you for accepting the public's opinion. I am sure you will agree that the easy access to birth control pills would not be a safe route to take, especially for our younger generation.

Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,

Carrie M. Fleming
Carrie G. Fleming

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