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Dockets Management Branch  
Food & Drug Administration  
Department of Health & Human Services  
Room 10-61  
5630 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

To Whom It May Concern:



On behalf of the Pro-choice and Reproductive Rights Committee of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, we are writing to urge the FDA to approve the application to sell Emergency Contraception (EC) over the counter. Established in 1919, WLALA is the country's largest local women's bar organization, which seeks to promote the interests of women attorneys and judges, to further understanding of and support for the legal rights of all women, and to promote equality and equal opportunity for all people.

Because EC must be taken within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse, it is important that women have immediate access to the pills. Requiring a doctor's prescription puts an unnecessary barrier to access, particularly over holidays or weekends, or when a woman is traveling and away from her regular doctor.

All studies indicate that EC is safe and simple to use and does not require either a doctor or a pharmacist's assistance. In addition, an anti-choice group called Pharmacists for Life is encouraging licensed pharmacists not to fill prescriptions for EC. This is particularly a problem for women who live in small communities that have only one pharmacy.

The use of EC to prevent pregnancy is a medical issue, not a political one. Therefore, we hope the FDA will grant immediate approval of this application.

Sincerely,

  
Alison Regan  
Co-chair

  
Kristina Scott  
Co-chair

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