17 Adams St.
Garden City NY 11530
June 7, 00

To the FDA

1301 '00 JUN 12 P2:01

I am writing in regard to the pending decision on whether to make birth control pills available OTC. I strongly urge the FDA to continue to allow them by prescription only

When I was 18, and very insecure, a boyfriend pressured me to go to Planned Parenthood for b.c. pills. While I had no interest one way or the other in having sex, I feared him breaking up with me, so I did get the pills. At no time was I advised of the side effects or offered any kind of counseling as to why an unmarried 18-yr. old needed them. It was an assembly line. There were many other girls like me whose boyfriends thought the pill was the perfect solution for "free" sex. Two girls on the pill were date-raped over a period of several months, I believe the pill makes would-be rapists more likely to rape & to see rape as no big deal.

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The pill not only allowed far more

promiscuity among immature college kids - it led to abortions too. The inevitability of more sex, missed days of taking the pill, etc. led to pregnancies neither boy or girl anticipated. The girls would go on the pill in hopes of satisfying a boyfriend & to keep the relationship going - the boys wanted it because the culture says they are to have sex whenever they feel like it, with no consequences. No one considered pregnancy, nor were they told. The point is, even with a prescription, all the facts aren't always discussed, & there are long-lasting emotional consequences of too-early sex.

We'd hardly be promoting abstinence until marriage if we give out birth control pills like candy.

Sincerely
Patty Knapp