



TRI-STATE PREGNANCY CENTER

A Network of Hope for Women in Crisis

2543 '03 MAY 13 P1:17

05/07/03

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

RE: Docket 01P-0075
("Switch Status of Emergency Contraceptives from Rx to OTC")

Dear Commissioner:

As the Administrative Director of an active pregnancy center in the Tri-State area, I have seen first hand, the complex issues surrounding the use of "The Morning After Pill." Please do not make this hormone available over the counter.

This powerful drug carries significant side effects. Severe nausea and vomiting often accompany the use of this medication, upsetting a woman's delicate hormonal system, often requiring medical attention and hospitalization.

I am concerned about the long-term physical and emotional effects of using this drug. Selling "The Morning After Pill" over the counter will encourage sexual experimentation and irresponsible, adolescent use. This increases the likelihood of developing serious health problems associated with pre-marital sexual activity including emotional trauma, unplanned pregnancies, complications related to abortion and deadly STDs. I do not believe significant long-term studies have been conducted to test the safety of this strong medication that alters a woman's sensitive female hormonal make up.

"The Morning After Pill" is a potential abortifacient disguised as a contraceptive. The moral and ethical implications are vast and far-reaching.

I strongly oppose making "The Morning After Pill" available for over the counter use.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Lemon

OIP-0075

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