



COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Douglas M. Duncan
County Executive

Judith Vaughan-Prather
Director

February 11, 2004

Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D.
Commissioner of Food and Drugs
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

On behalf of the Montgomery County Commission for Women, I am writing to voice my enthusiastic support for making Plan B emergency contraceptive pills available over-the-counter. Unintended pregnancies are a significant problem in the United States and women deserve a second chance to prevent this from happening. Easier access to Plan B will also help to reduce the need for abortion.

Plan B is safe, effective, and easy to use. But time is of the essence. The sooner it's taken, the more effective it is. Women in the United States deserve the same unencumbered access that women in 25 other countries around the world already enjoy. Millions of women, including victims of sexual assault, stand ready to benefit from this opportunity.

After hearing extensive and convincing evidence about the safety and efficacy of Plan B, the FDA Nonprescription Drugs and Reproductive Health Drugs advisory committees voted overwhelmingly to support the application to switch Plan B to over-the-counter status. I urge you to follow their recommendation and approve the manufacturer's application to switch Plan B to nonprescription status.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia Cornish,
President
Montgomery County Commission for Women

01P 0075



C626