

January 9, 2004

Mark McClellan, M.D., Ph.D.,
 Commissioner, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
 5600 Fishers Lane
 Rockville, MD 20857

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Dear Dr. McClellan:

On behalf of the millions of Americans represented by our organizations we urge you to take action to protect American women against the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) recommendation to allow "the morning after pill" to be sold over the counter.

This recommendation from the advisory committee of the FDA places political ideology above the health and safety of women. The drug in question, Plan B, consists of two high doses of birth control pills – pills that are not prescribed on a long-term basis without a medical exam and prescription. The smaller doses of this drug are associated with health risks that can cause serious medical complications, and yet the FDA is now recommending that a higher dose of the drug should be available without medical supervision.

Granting Plan B over-the-counter status sends the message that the repetitive use of this drug is safe, when in reality there are no studies regarding the repeated, long-term use of the drug. The FDA recommendation would allow teenage girls (or younger) the ability to purchase the drug without parental knowledge or without the guidance of medical supervision. The effects of repeated use, which will certainly occur, of Plan B on developing adolescent bodies are unknown. Additionally, Plan B cannot only stop a pregnancy from occurring but it may also act as an abortifacient. Many women will undoubtedly take the drug believing they are preventing a pregnancy when, in truth, they may be aborting an already developing embryo.

The advisory committee's recommendation to allow Plan B to be sold without medical oversight is irresponsible and dangerous. Please use your executive power to protect American women and keep Plan B as a drug administered by prescription and with medical oversight.

Sincerely,

American Assoc. of Christian Schools
 American Family Association
 American Values
 Coalition on Urban Renewal & Education
 Coalitions for America
 Concerned Women for America
 Christian Coalition of America
 Christian Legal Society

Culture of Life Foundation
 Eagle Forum
 Family Research Council
 Focus on the Family
 Population Research Institute
 Religious Freedom Coalition
 The Salvation Army
 Tradition, Family, Property, Inc

cc: Karl Rove

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