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February 11, 2004

Mark D. McClellan, MD, PhD
Commissioner of Food and Drugs
US Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Land
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr McClellan:

As a practicing obstetrician/gynecologist and department chair, I strongly support over the counter access to emergency contraceptive pills. Without getting into the unfortunate politics of this debate, I think the availability of this form of contraception over the counter will have a profound positive effect on unintended pregnancy in this country. What is going on now in regard to an unintended pregnancy in this country reflects at least in part, poor access to effective contraception. This is particularly true in the adolescent age groups which contain patients who, by their very age group, are disengaged from the health care system.

Scientific data supporting otc-ecp efficacy and safety is strong and, by the FDA's own criteria, these preparations qualify for over the counter use. This is one chance for this country to join the 21st century in regard to contraception access and thus leave behind the dark ages of conservative political rhetoric.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas W. Laube, MD, M.Ed.
Professor and Chair

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