

May 16, 2000
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Dear FDA:

I'm writing out of concern for the pressure you are undergoing toward making the Pill and similar drugs available over the counter without a prescription. It was a disservice to the public when Planned Parenthood managed to get them available to adolescents without the requirement of a physical exam - this step in itself placed thousands of lives needlessly at risk each and every year. Making them available over the counter would only serve to multiply that risk as no doctor whatsoever would then be involved to monitor patient progress while ingesting these potentially lethal chemicals.

I speak not merely in hypothetical contexts but out of personal experience. Back in 1971, I was given a prescription for the lightest available prescription of the Pill **after an exam to include a blood test by a licensed physician.** It's a known fact that even the best diagnosticians in the nation will err in the diagnosis of one out of every six patients. With that being the case, there will be mistakes even when a doctor is involved. I was one of those errors, but at least the physician to examine me once affected did better and kept that chemical from proving lethal in my case. I had been told by the examining doctor that everything was fine and my blood work indicated I should do well with that lightest brand prescribed. Within two months of taking it I had been bloating to begin with. One night I sat down Indian style to play my guitar. When I got back up to walk, my right leg was "asleep" and did not regain normalcy of sensation for quite a while thereafter. When the tingling subsided, there was pain so I ended up in the emergency room of the local hospital. As it turned out, the Pill had caused a blood clot to form in my leg. I was told to get off the Pill **immediately**, then keep the leg immobile for a few days to let the clot dissolve. Had that clot dislodged intact and traveled to the heart, lungs or brain, it could easily have killed me. I was only an adolescent at the time.

Cases such as mine have turned up on medical records across the nation repeatedly throughout the past quarter century (plus) since that chemical became widely available and commonly prescribed to the public. The point I'm trying to make is that it would be **irresponsible in criminal proportions** for you to allow the Clinton administration and Planned Parenthood to push through such legislation which would only leave so many individuals at serious risk for physical trauma and perhaps even death. I therefore **URGE** you to resoundingly refuse to let this dangerous chemical become available to everyone with money to spend on what amounts to dangerous recreational drugs. Please keep as peak priority your responsibility to protect public health - keeping standards high is essential to national well-being. Again, thanks for your thoughtful consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Victoria T. De Lacy

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