

Everett P. Fuller, MD, FACOG
Chyrel E. Stoner, MD, FACOG
David A. Godwin, MD, FACOG
Matthew L. Smith, MD, FACOG
T. Wayne McDonald, MD, FACOG

Highlands Center
for Women

Sharon E. Kofoed, MD
Denise A. Broderick, MD
Shannon Johnson, MD
Kimberly S. Holloway, MD
Laura D. Wieland LeBel, MD

April 26, 2004

Dr. Mark McClellan, Commissioner of the FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. McClellan:

This letter is in reference to the FDA Commission looking at placing emergency contraceptives over the counter. My view is that this would be a very unwise decision, and decisions have been made rapidly that have long term sequellae and adverse effects for our general public which you are under pressure to put through would adversely affect the health of our country.

Many people, especially teens, will be relying upon this for their form of birth control which will probably just increase sexual behavior that will adversely affect their health. With adverse effects of teens and sexually transmitted diseases that have already occurred with dysplasias and subsequent cervical cancers that have had long term sequellae for many of our women in the future. Actually this over-the-counter will cause much more suffering for the women in the future with tubal disease and infertility. Many of these teens possibly increasing their sexual activity, it will only increase the emotionally fragile state many teens are already placed with, pressure that goes with the teenage years.

There are many more serious complications such as delayed care for ectopic pregnancies, which is the most, by going to the pharmacist, they will only be receiving a handout which anybody understands a teen would be very unlikely to ever truly read or review that information.

We continually think that we can make decisions that will help decrease the teen pregnancy rates, but it is decisions such as this that have adverse effects as it will only likely increase the teen pregnancy rate, sexual activity rates and long term will place more emotional scars and burdens on women when people make it sound like a simple decision. As with many others, it promotes more sexual activity and, in the long term, will have the exact opposite effect.

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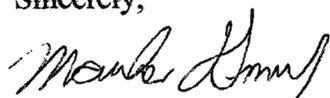
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With all of the information you have received, for the benefit and well-being for the women of America, please do not allow emergency contraceptives to become over-the-counter.

Sincerely,



Matthew L. Smith, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

MLS/ks

Cc: Dockets Management Branch
HFA – 305
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20857

Cc: ACOG Executive Vice President Ralph Hale
ACOG 409 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20090-6920

Cc: President Dr. John Gibbons, Jr.
ACOG 409 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20090-6920