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February 13, 2004

Mark B. McClellan, MD, PhD
Commissioner of Food and Drugs
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Land
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner McClellan:

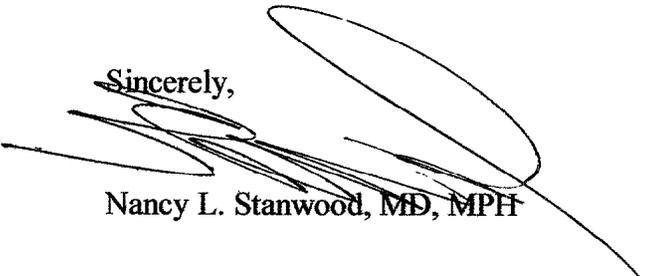
As a practicing obstetrician-gynecologist and member of Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, I strongly support the overwhelming evidence-based and public health imperative for over-the-counter access to the emergency contraceptive pill, Plan B.

Half of pregnancies in the United States are unintended, and half of these are terminated in abortion. We have the technology to do better. Emergency contraception pills are a crucial part of this technology to decrease our endemically high rate of abortion. Solid research demonstrates that these pills are safe, including when self-administered. With your approval of Plan B for over-the-counter sales, you can help improve the lives of women by giving them ready access to this technology.

I can imagine that you face significant political pressure to rule against over-the-counter status for Plan B. Please, as a fellow scientist and physician, I urge you to rule based on the evidence and follow your advisory panels' recommendations.

Approve Plan B for over-the-counter sales on February 20th.

Sincerely,



Nancy L. Stanwood, MD, MPH

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