



The
Massachusetts
Emergency
Contraception
Network

2092 04 Nov 2 P3:28

November 19, 2004

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket number 2001P-0075 in the *Federal Register* 25 November 2003 (Volume 68, Number 227)

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed please find over 1100 signatures urging you to make the emergency contraceptive pill, Plan B[®], available over the counter. The Massachusetts Emergency Contraception (EC) Network and NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts collected these petitions in and around Boston from August to November, 2004.

We believe that the decision to deny the original application for over-the-counter status of Plan B[®] completely disregarded evidence-based medicine and went against the interest of public health. EC has been proven safe and effective. Easier access to EC could prevent 1.7 million unintended pregnancies and 800,000 abortions each year.¹

Plan B[®] should not be held to different standards than other drugs because of political considerations. The FDA's own advisory committees recommended that EC is suitable for over-the-counter use. We urge you to follow the recommendations of your own staff and advisory committees and approve Plan B[®] for over-the-counter sales.

Sincerely,

Stacie Garnett
Massachusetts EC Network Coordinator

¹ Trussel J. Emergency Contraception Pills: A Simple Proposal to Reduce Unintended Pregnancies. *Family Planning Perspectives*. 1992;24:269-273.

OIP-0075

C 2043