



Representative Beth Kerttula

Alaska State Legislature District 3

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January 12, 2005

Steven K. Galson
Deputy Director, FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville MD 20857-0001

Dear Mr. Galson,

It has recently come to my attention that the FDA is approaching a deadline to make a decision regarding the over-the-counter status of emergency contraception. I am writing to urge the FDA to allow emergency contraceptives to be sold over-the-counter.

Scientific research reported by the Office of Research Reporting and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development has shown us that emergency contraception, such as Plan B, is safe to be purchased without a prescription. In addition, the American Medical Association supports increased access to emergency contraception.

Emergency contraception is time sensitive; requiring a prescription reduces its effectiveness. Women who have limited access to health care or who are uninsured may be not be able to obtain emergency contraception.

As an Alaskan, this is a very important issue to me. Alaska has a high rate of sexual abuse and forcible rape compared to the national average. In 2000, the Uniform Crime Reports stated that Alaska's rate of forcible rape was 2.5 times that of the national average.

Our victims, as well as all of our citizens, have the right to access to emergency contraceptives for their health. When the decision comes to you on January 22nd, I encourage you to act in the best interest of American women and allow emergency contraceptives to be sold over-the-counter.

Sincerely,

Representative Beth Kerttula
Alaska State Legislature

State Capitol ♦ Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182 ♦ (907) 465-4766 ♦ Fax (907) 465-4748
E-mail: Rep.Beth.Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us ♦ <http://www.kerttula.net>

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