

September 6, 2007

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

As organizations dedicated to reproductive health and freedom, we write in strong support of the Emergency Contraception Education Act (H.R.3372). Recently reintroduced by Rep. Louise Slaughter and 60 other pro-family-planning lawmakers, this bill would establish a public-education campaign to increase awareness of emergency contraception as an effective method of preventing unintended pregnancy.

Emergency contraception (EC), also known as Plan B® or the “morning-after” pill, is a concentrated dosage of ordinary birth-control pills that can dramatically reduce a woman’s chance of becoming pregnant if taken soon after sex. EC does not cause abortion; rather it *prevents* pregnancy by inhibiting ovulation, fertilization and possibly implantation before a pregnancy occurs. EC is safe and effective, and in August 2006, the FDA approved over-the-counter sales of the medication for individuals ages 18 and up.

Unfortunately, many American women remain unaware of EC. Furthermore, evidence indicates that many health-care providers – including pharmacists and emergency room personnel who treat sexual-assault survivors – also do not know about the medication or how it works. The EC Education Act will help remedy this situation by authorizing a public-information campaign so more women and health-care providers are aware of this effective back-up form of birth control.

The EC Education Act is a pro-prevention measure that lawmakers on both sides of the abortion debate can - and do - support. Increasing awareness of emergency contraception empowers women to make informed decisions concerning their reproductive health – and by helping women prevent unintended pregnancy, we can reduce the *need* for abortion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Advocates for Youth
American Association of University Women
American Civil Liberties Union
American Public Health Association
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
American Society for Emergency Contraception
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
Catholics For a Free Choice
Center for Inquiry

Center for Reproductive Rights
Choice USA
Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund
Feminist Majority
Healthy Teen Network
Idaho Women's Network
Jewish Women International
Law Students for Reproductive Justice
Legal Momentum
Medical Students for Choice
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Abortion Federation
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Council of Jewish Women
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Health Law Program (NHeLP)
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women and Families
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
People For the American Way
Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Connection
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
WV Focus: Reproductive Education and Equality (WV FREE)