

January 5, 2004

Carole Ben-Maimon, MD
Barr Research
One Belmont Avenue
11th Floor
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Re: Plan B application

Dear Dr. Ben-Maimon:

On behalf of more than thirty women's health and reproductive rights organizations, we are writing to express our appreciation for your commitment to bringing Plan B® emergency contraception (EC) over-the-counter (OTC).

In the United States, where approximately half of all pregnancies are unintended, EC is an extremely important but underutilized women's health option. While awareness and use of EC have increased over the last five years, women's access remains stifled because of incomplete information about EC products and limited access to prescribers. Securing OTC status for Plan B will help eliminate these barriers and greatly expand American women's ability to obtain and use EC effectively.

Despite the challenges that have delayed and disrupted the FDA review process, we remain hopeful this effort will be successful because we know that science, public health, and public opinion are *all* on our side. Reducing unintended pregnancies by expanding access to Plan B® EC is a winning, common ground prevention strategy – even in the current political climate.

Throughout the FDA review process, Barr Pharmaceuticals has demonstrated a commitment to realizing our common goal of an OTC product, as exemplified during your presentation at the FDA Advisory Committee meeting last December and the subsequent meetings you participated in with the women's health community. As we enter this next critical phase, we are relying more than ever on the company's leadership to keep the process moving forward.

As advocates, we will continue to work with our members and constituencies to maintain a strong, positive public message about the need for Plan B® OTC. As the product manufacturer and distributor, we hope you as the product manufacturer and distributor will continue to demonstrate a dedication to realizing that goal.

Thank you again for your commitment to this product.

Sincerely,

Organizations:

Alaska EC Project
Alaska Pro-Choice Alliance
American Civil Liberties Union Reproductive Freedom Project
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Society for Emergency Contraception
Association for Reproductive Health Professionals
Campaign for Access to Emergency Contraception
Champaign County Health Care Consumers
Clara Bell Duvall Reproductive Freedom Project, ACLU-PA
Family Planning Advocates of New York State
Family Planning Council, Philadelphia
Feminist Majority Foundation
Gynuity Health Projects
Ibis Reproductive Health
Massachusetts EC Network
NARAL Pro-Choice America
NARAL Pro-Choice New York
NARAL Pro-Choice Texas
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Organization for Women
National Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention
National Partnership for Women and Families
National Women's Health Network
Pacific Institute for Women's Health
PATH
Pharmacy Access Partnership
Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Republican Majority for Choice
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
Sexuality Information and Education Council of United States (SIECUS)
The Alan Guttmacher Institute
Women's Direct Action Collective
Women's Health Task Force

Individuals:

Cynthia Harper, Ph.D., University of California at San Francisco
Melanie A. Gold, D.O.
Phillip Corfman, M.D., Board member of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project

cc: Mr. Bruce Downey