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**One Year After Over-the-Counter Approval, Planned Parenthood  
Continues Campaign to Ensure Emergency Contraception  
Is Available to Every Woman Who Needs It**

Cleveland OH — On the one-year anniversary of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of over-the-counter status for Plan B emergency contraception (EC), Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio (PPNEO) vowed to continue to work to increase awareness of and access to the safe, effective backup birth control option.

"Over-the-counter access for women 18 and older was a big step forward for public health and for preventing unintended pregnancy, but in a state that ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in access to family planning, there's more work to do. Every woman deserves every chance to prevent unintended pregnancy," said Tara Broderick, CEO of PPNEO. "Planned Parenthood is working in Ohio to ensure that women have timely access to this important backup birth control option."

According to a recent survey conducted in the Cleveland area, local pharmacists are generally willing to fill prescriptions for EC and the product is much more widely available than it was in 2005. Of 100 local pharmacies surveyed, 79% carry Plan B (compared with 45% in 2005.) Rural area women are much more likely to face barriers to access, especially in areas where there are no family planning providers. The Ohio Prevention First Act, sponsored by Senator Sue Morano, and Representatives Peterson and Yates, will require that pharmacists dispense all of the legal prescriptions presented to them, despite personal beliefs.

Women under the age of 18 still face barriers to EC. Under the FDA decision, teenagers must obtain a prescription from a physician in order to obtain EC. Research shows that over-the-counter access to emergency contraception does not encourage or increase sexual activity among teens.

"The bottom line is that teen pregnancy is an epidemic in our country," Broderick said. "More than 750,000 teens will get pregnant this year. We encourage parents, politicians, educators and health care providers to link arms with Planned Parenthood to help our teens by supporting access to proven prevention measures like medically accurate sex education and access to birth control, including emergency contraception."

Women can always turn to Planned Parenthood for EC and other methods of birth control and for all their reproductive health care needs. Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio provides emergency contraception on a walk-in basis at all 18 of our health centers in Northeast Ohio.

“Since the FDA approved over-the-counter access to EC a year ago, Planned Parenthood health centers have provided more than 1.2 million women with emergency contraception,” Planned Parenthood Federation of America Vice President for Medical Affairs Dr. Vanessa Cullins said. “As the nation's leading reproductive health care advocate and provider, Planned Parenthood wants women and couples to know about emergency contraception and all their contraceptive options.”

For more information about EC, please visit [www.plannedparenthood.org](http://www.plannedparenthood.org). To locate a Planned Parenthood health center in Northeast Ohio, visit <http://www.plannedparenthood.org/ppneo/>

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*Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio is a recent consolidation of Planned Parenthood of Greater Cleveland, Planned Parenthood of North Central Ohio, Planned Parenthood of Stark County, Planned Parenthood of Summit, Portage and Medina Counties, and Planned Parenthood of the Mahoning Valley. We provide medical services to more than 57,000 people and sexuality education to thousands more in 21 counties.*