

public affairs update

EC OTC - One Year Anniversary!

Friday, August 24 was the one-year anniversary of the FDA's approval of emergency contraception (EC) for over-the-counter (OTC) use! The FDA's decision came after years of delay, and with an age restriction - granting OTC access only to those 18 and older.

Despite these drawbacks, Planned Parenthood and the public health community celebrated the approval of this safe and effective emergency birth control option as a major step forward for public health and preventing unintended pregnancy.

Unfortunately, many barriers to access still remain, including scientifically-baseless age restrictions on teen access as well as pharmacy refusals. Women across the country have reported being refused EC at their local drugstores and some have encountered drugstores that refuse to stock EC.

Planned Parenthood is working in Washington, DC and in the state legislature to make sure women have timely access to EC. Women can always turn to Planned Parenthood for birth control, including EC and for all their reproductive health care needs.

Gonzales Resigns! Need AG that will protect right to privacy.

Planned Parenthood urges the Bush administration to appoint an attorney general who will stand up for women's health and protect privacy rights.

"We're heartened by the resignation of Attorney General Gonzales. As the nation's leading advocate and provider of reproductive health care, we call upon President Bush to nominate and the Senate to confirm an attorney general who will be America's lawyer, and will stand firmly to protect our liberties, including our right to privacy in all of its dimensions," said Cecile Richards, PPFA President.

"America deserves an attorney general who will protect our fundamental freedoms, including the right to make private, personal health care decisions free from government intrusion."

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 **Planned Parenthood**[®]
Southeastern Pennsylvania

public affairs update, cont.

Birth Control Crisis

Millions of women across the country are facing a crisis when it comes to their access to birth control. As a result of a law enacted in January - called the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) - the price of birth control pills at universities and health centers across the country has skyrocketed.

In the DRA, Congress changed the rule allowing pharmaceutical companies to offer some providers low cost drugs – inadvertently making it harder for universities and safety net family planning providers, like Planned Parenthood, to offer their patients affordable birth control.

Since this law went into effect, pill packs on college campuses have gone from \$3 to \$30. In many cases, the cost increase means many women can no longer afford birth control. This puts women at increased risk of unintended pregnancy and serious health issues.

This is a simple problem for Congress to fix. It will cost the government nothing and can be done immediately. Tell them to fix the birth control pricing crisis caused by the DRA; women deserve access to affordable birth control. Contact the Public Affairs Department at 215.351.5510 or publicaffairs@ppsp.org for more information.

Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!

- Public Affairs Fall Phone Banking
September 5, 10, 19 at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
September 13 & 27 at PPSP, 19 Lindenwold Ave, Ambler
September 17 & 24 at PPSP, 216 W. State Street, Media
- Planned Parenthood Days of Action!
Saturday, September 15 in Delaware County
Saturday, October 6 in Montgomery County
- Cocktails for a Cause: *EC in the ER in PA? Is 2007 the year?*
Tuesday, September 18th | 5-8pm
Fergies Pub: 1214 Sansom Street, Philadelphia
- Volunteer Night at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Wednesday, September 19th - 5:00-7:30pm
- Tricky Subjects Training at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Thursday, September 20th - 5:30-7:30pm
- PROM NITE 2007: *A PPSP Cocktails for a Cause Event*
Saturday, October 13th | 8pm-12am
Atwater Kent Museum | Philadelphia

To RSVP or for information about these or other PPSP events, contact the Public Affairs Department at publicaffairs@ppsp.org or 215.351.5585.