

**ABC NEWS ONE
TRANSCRIPTS**

USA: FDA Allows Over-The-Counter Sale of "Plan B" Contraceptive Pill

Reporter: Rob Simmelkjaer ("SIM-el-care")

SUPERS:

**Kathleen Hill-Besinque
USC School of Pharmacy**

ROB SIMMELKJAER, ABC NEWS, NEW YORK.

SCRIPT:

TODAY'S DECISION BRINGS TO A CLOSE ONE OF THE LONGEST AND MOST CONTENTIOUS DEBATES IN THE FDA'S HISTORY. PROPONENTS OF THE PILL WERE QUICK TO PRAISE THIS MORNING'S ANOUNCEMENT

SOT

**Kathleen Hill-Besinque
USC School of Pharmacy:**

"This is a historic decision. For the first time in the 40 year history of oral contraceptives, American women 18 and over will have timely access to a safe and effective product to prevent unintended pregnancy in the event of a contraceptive failure"

PLAN B, WHICH IS MANUFACTURED BY BARR LABRATORIES, WILL BE SOLD ONLY IN PHARMACIES AND HEALTH CLINICS. TO BUY IT, WOMEN WILL HAVE TO SHOW PROOF OF AGE. WOMEN 17 AND YOUNGER WILL NEED A PRESCRIPTION TO BUY THE DRUG.

PRO-LIFE GROUPS HAVE LONG CRITICIZED PLAN B, CALLING IT AN ABORTION ON DEMAND PILL THAT COULD ALSO LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES. THE PILL'S PROPONENTS DISPUTE THAT, SAYING THE PILL WILL NOT INTERRUPT ALREADY ESTABLISHED PREGNANCIES.

ROB SIMMELKJAER ON CAMERA:

PLAN B MUST BE TAKEN WITHIN 72 HOURS OF INTERCOURSE IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE. PHARMACIES WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR VOLUNTARILY ENFORCING THE 18-YEAR-OLD AGE RESTRICTION.

ROB SIMMELKJAER, ABC NEWS, NEW YORK.

EDITMASTER:06-81

USA: FDA Allows Over-The-Counter Sale of "Plan B" Contraceptive Pill

Reporter: ANDREA CANNING

SUPERS:

**Kathleen Hill-Besinque
USC School of Pharmacy**

**WENDY WRIGHT
Concerned Women for America**

ANDREA CANNING, ABC NEWS, NEW YORK.

SCRIPT:

AFTER YEARS OF CONTROVERSY AND BITTER DEBATE, A MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE FDA-- THE MORNING-AFTER PILL WILL BE AVAILABLE OVER-THE-COUNTER.

SOT

**Kathleen Hill-Besinque
USC School of Pharmacy**

"For the first time in the 40-year history of oral contraceptives, American women 18 and over will have timely access to a safe and effective product to prevent unintended pregnancy."

THE RULING CULMINATED A CONTENTIOUS 3-YEAR EFFORT TO EASE ACCESS TO THE EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE KNOWN AS "PLAN B."

"PLAN B" CONTAINS A STRONG DOSE OF A HORMONE FOUND IN BIRTH CONTROL PILLS. TAKEN WITHIN 72 HOURS OF HAVING SEX, THEY CAN BLOCK OVULATION, FERTILIZATION, OR THE IMPLANTATION OF AN EGG IN THE UTERUS.

YOUNG WOMEN, 17 AND UNDER. STILL NEED A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION TO BUY THE PILLS, MAKING THE COMPROMISE A PARTIAL VICTORY FOR WOMEN'S ADVOCACY AND MEDICAL GROUPS.

THEY CONTEND THAT ELIMINATING SALES RESTRICTIONS COULD CUT IN HALF THE NATION'S 3 MILLION ANNUAL UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES.

BUT PRO-LIFE GROUPS HAVE LONG CRITICIZED "PLAN B," CALLING IT AN ABORTION-ON-DEMAND PILL.

THEY ARGUE THAT WIDER ACCESS COULD INCREASE PROMISCUITY AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES.

SOT

WENDY WRIGHT

Concerned Women for America

"Making this drug non prescription gives a false sense of security. Countries like England, Scotland, Sweden have all experienced no decrease in pregnancies but an increase in teen pregnancies."

NINE STATES ALREADY ALLOW WOMEN OF ANY AGE TO BUY THE MORNING AFTER PILL WITHOUT A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION FROM CERTAIN PHARMACIES.

ANDREA CANNING ON CAMERA:

THE MANUFACTURER OF "PLAN B" SAYS IT HOPES TO BEGIN OVER-THE-COUNTER SALES OF THE DRUG BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. IT ALSO SAYS IT PLANS TO CONTINUE TO FIGHT THE FDA ON THE OVER-18 AGE RESTRICTION.

ANDREA CANNING, ABC NEWS, WASHINGTON.

EDITMASTER:06-82

W/ NIGHT CLOSE

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ANDREA CANNING, ABC NEWS, NEW YORK.

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ANDREA CANNING, ABC NEWS, WASHINGTON.

PRELIM SCRIPT

USA: FDA Allows Over-The-Counter Sale of "Plan B" Contraceptive Pill

Reporter: ANDREA CANNING

LENGTH 1:33

SUPERS:

Dr. STEVEN GALSON / Dir, Ctr for Drug Eval and Research, FDA

Dr. David Stevens/Christian Medical Association

ANDREA CANNING, ABC NEWS, NEW YORK.

SCRIPT:

THURSDAY, THE FDA RESOLVED ONE OF THE MOST CONTENTIOUS ISSUES IN THE AGENCY'S 100 YEAR HISTORY...APPROVING OVER-THE-COUNTER SALES OF THE MORNING AFTER PILL, KNOWN AS "PLAN B" TO WOMEN 18 AND OLDER.

(NAT BABY)

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(SOT)

"The benefits are number one more choice of contraception and then of course prevention of unintended pregnancy. "

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PRO-LIFE GROUPS HAVE LONG CRITICIZED "PLAN B," CALLING IT AN ABORTION ON DEMAND PILL.

THEY ARGUE THAT WIDER ACCESS COULD INCREASE PROMISCUITY AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES.

(SOT Dr. David Stevens/Christian Medical Association WEINER)

"Anyone who has a college age kids or teenagers knows that thinking ahead is not one of their strong suits so this will be the easy out."

NINE STATES ALREADY ALLOW WOMEN OF ANY AGE TO BUY THE MORNING AFTER PILL WITHOUT A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION FROM CERTAIN PHARMACIES.

(ANDREA CLOSE)

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ANDREA CANNING, ABC NEWS, WASHINGTON

06-82

LOCATION/STORY: Plan B pkg

FORMAT: Maya Kulycky pkg

VIDEO SHOWS/SHOTLIST:

FDA exterior; MOS; MOS; Plan B; Richards head shot; Clinton; graphic; Plan B; Wright head shot; FDA drug chief; graphic; standup.

SUPERS:

(MOS)

(MOS)

**Cecile Richards
Pres, Planned Parenthood
(:32-:35 VERY QUICK CHYRON)**

**Wendy Wright
Pres, Concerned Women for America
(:51-:53 QUICK CHYRON)**

**Maya Kulycky
ABC News
(1:14-1:25)**

LENGTH: insert 1:12 / pkg 1:25

PKG SCRIPT:

**THE FDA HAS HAD ITS SAY ON PLAN B, BUT AMERICANS
AREN'T EVEN CLOSE TO ENDING THE DEBATE.**

(SOT TX Christian MOS)

**"I think it should be available. Women should be able to take
the pill if they want."**

(SOT TX Christian MOS)

**"First of all I wouldn't get myself in that situation and second,
if I did, I'd take responsibility, I wouldn't take a pill for it."**

BACKERS OF PLAN B ARE APPLAUDING THE FDA'S DECISION, BUT THEY'RE ALSO DISSATISFIED. THEY SAY THE PILL SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO WOMEN OF ALL AGES WITHOUT A PERSCRIPTION, NOT JUST THOSE OVER 18.

(SOT Cecile Richards)

"We just think teens should be treated like other women who want access to birth control."

SENATOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, IN A WRITTEN STATEMENT, SAID "THIS FIGHT ISN'T OVER YET. THERE ARE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AGE RESTRICTION AND OTHER CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY THE FDA."

OPPONENTS OF THE PILL WOULD AGREE ABOUT THE FIGHT NOT BEING OVER.

(SOT Wendy Wright)

"We are keeping our options open, we are exploring some options."

PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE ON BOTH SIDES TO CHALLENGE THE FDA'S DECISION IN COURT.

THE FDA'S DRUG CHIEF IS PROBABLY NOT SURPRISED. HE SAYS THE AGE RESTRICTION IS STILL CONTROVERSIAL INSIDE HIS AGENCY. "THERE WERE DISAGREEMENTS," HE SAYS, "FROM THE FIRST SECOND THIS APPLICATION CAME IN THE HOUSE."

(STANDUP CLOSE)

PLAN B IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE IN NON-PRESCRIPTION PACKAGING BY THE END OF THE YEAR. RIGHT NOW COLLEGES AND PHARMACIES ARE DECIDING HOW THEY WILL MAKE IT AVAILABLE.

MAYA KULYCKY, ABC NEWS, WASHINGTON.