



News From
DAVE WELDON

Florida's 15th District -- *Serving Brevard, Indian River, Osceola, and Polk Counties*

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Contact: Kurt Heath (202) 225-3671; (202)-577-5285
kurt.heath@mail.house.gov

Weldon: FDA's Plan B Ruling Lacks Important Enforcement Tools

FDA has "Tighter Controls on Cold Medicine than it Does on Emergency Contraception"

WASHINGTON, DC...U.S. Rep. Dave Weldon, M.D. (R-FL) today issued the following statement in reaction to the FDA's ruling to make the "Plan B" pill available to women and men 18-years and older without a prescription:

"Today's decision by the FDA and the Administration is premature at best and entirely irresponsible at worst. Not only are the effects of the Plan B pill still unclear, the FDA has failed to provide any sort of enforcement framework to ensure that the pill does not fall into the hands of adolescents. Consequently, today's ruling amounts to a wink and a nod to the drug industry and political activists.

"Important questions left unresolved by the Administration and the FDA include:

- Who has the authority to prosecute those who violate the 18-year-old age restriction?
- What is the penalty for illegal redistribution to minors?
- Without the threat of prosecution or a stiff penalty, how will we keep Plan B out of our schools?
- How will we protect young girls from exploitation by older men who buy the drug for 'their protection?'

"Had the FDA and the Administration been serious about restricting the availability of Plan B to minors, they would have clearly outlined enforcement authority and penalties for violations. There's an enforcement vacuum that all but ensures widespread abuse and misuse among adolescents, fostering risky sexual behavior. There are strong enforcement mechanisms and criminal penalties for the misuse of cold medicines used to make 'meth,' yet there are no such penalties for the misuse or illegal redistribution of plan B to minors.

"Today's FDA decision will usher in the failed public health policies that Plan B has brought about in the United Kingdom over the past few years. The UK's policy of enabling easy teen access to the drug has been accompanied by a 23% increase in Syphilis and 108,000 new cases of Chlamydia last year alone. Researchers also report that teen pregnancy and teen abortion rates, which had been declining before the program began, are now both rising. If these negative results should happen here, will FDA and Pharma companies have a 'Plan C' to cope with it?

"Apparently, the FDA failed to consider what the UK has already discovered: easy access to Plan B encourages risky behaviors."

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