



News From
DAVE WELDON

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

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Weldon Warns of FDA's Potential "Plan B" Compromise

(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Representative Dave Weldon, M.D. (R-FL) made the following statement regarding the FDA's potential compromise with Barr Laboratories on the over-the-counter availability of the contraceptive "Plan B."

"I am extremely concerned over the tremendous risk to public health that this potential compromise may present. As a physician, I have witnessed how patients treat themselves at the pharmacy with little knowledge of the potential health risks of their treatment of behavior – particularly sexual activity.

"Since adolescents are most vulnerable to STD's, anything that would create an enhanced perception of safety regarding this inherently dangerous behavior is bad public policy. It would leave physicians out of the treatment loop and could exacerbate the already epidemic levels of STD's, including HIV/AIDS and HPV.

"Advocates of over-the-counter availability of 'Plan B' charge that politics are coming before science at the FDA. The lack of science, however, is exactly why this decision should be delayed. There is simply not enough data in the U.S. on adolescent sexual behavior with respect to the morning after pill. Additionally, what evidence does exist suggests that wide availability of the morning after pill represents a public health danger."

In a recent news report on Edinburgh News.com on April 5, 2004, the following was reported:

GOVERNMENT (Scotland) attempts to reduce high-risk sexual behaviour among teenagers have had exactly the opposite effect, according to a new study.

Academics at Nottingham University are reported to have found that expanding contraceptive services and providing the morning-after pill free to teenagers have encouraged sexual behaviour rather than reducing it.

They discovered that sexual activity and sexually transmitted diseases have risen fastest in those areas where the Government's policy has been most actively pursued.

Critics said that the findings exploded the official line that the best way to tackle rising teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) was by making contraception more easily available.

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