



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

August 24, 2006

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## **Archdiocese foresees sad consequences for women with Plan B made available over the counter**

The Archdiocese of Denver is gravely disappointed in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's recent decision to allow Emergency Contraception, commonly called Plan B, to be sold over the counter to women 18 years and older without prescription or medical advice. This irresponsible decision by the FDA could have tragic consequences for women and society as a whole.

Giving women 18 and older over-the-counter access to Plan B, a drug falsely presented as a safeguard for women's rights and health, will jeopardize women's health and dignity in several ways:

- compromises women's informed consent because women will not receive medical supervision in the use of the drug, be screened or monitored for contra-indicators for its use, or be informed of the dangers of "routine" use or adverse side effects;
- has the potential to act as an abortifacient and furthers the destruction of innocent human life;
- gives women a false sense of security regarding the risks of sexual activity in that while it prevents or terminates a pregnancy, it does not prevent sexually transmitted diseases or the emotional and psychological harms of sexual promiscuity;
- can be used as another vehicle of sexual exploitation of women because the drug can be bought over the counter by individuals 18 and older and subsequently distributed to anyone else.

For more information on the dangers of Plan B, go to [www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/contraception/morningafterpill.htm](http://www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/contraception/morningafterpill.htm) or contact the Respect Life Office for the Archdiocese of Denver, at (303)715-3205.

*~ Mimi Eckstein, Director of the Archdiocese of Denver's Respect Life Office*

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