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Contact: Chrissy Faessen c: 703-582-2777/chrissy@conwaystrategic.com

Judge Accepts Administration's Plan to make Plan B One-Step Available Over-the-Counter for All Women

Washington, DC -- Statement by Susannah Baruch, Interim President & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project, on [Judge Korman's acceptance of a plan](#) by the Obama Administration to make Plan B One-Step available over the counter without age or point of sale restrictions.

"Today we are a giant step closer to having emergency contraception available on store shelves, without restrictions, for all women.

Since 1999 when FDA first approved emergency contraception, lawyers and advocates have fought this one out with two Administrations and the path has not been smooth or straight. The Reproductive Health Technologies Project has been there from the beginning, working in tandem with our colleagues at the Center for Reproductive Rights, and we congratulate them on this extraordinary victory.

There have been epic battles in and out of court – to bring the “morning–after” pill to market, to make it available over the counter, to make it available to women 18 and older, then to 17 and older, and most recently to 15 and older. There have been endless loops of political wrangling, reminiscent of the movie Groundhog Day. Yet this result has felt inevitable for months. And the Administration apparently finally saw it had nowhere left to go.

What happens now? Don't expect to see the product at your neighborhood store instantly. The manufacturer of Plan B One-step must apply to FDA and FDA must approve the application.

Frustratingly, the government does not include the two-pill version of emergency contraception in its plan, even though a higher court just last week ordered them to make it available without restrictions. The Administration also hints that they may give Teva, the manufacturer of Plan B One-Step, some marketing exclusivity which means it would be several years before the cheaper, generic version is fully available to the same extent.

So we are celebrating , but we will also be watching and working to ensure that all emergency contraception products, including generics, are available over the counter without age restrictions."

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Emergency contraception is a safe, effective back-up method of birth control that can prevent pregnancy in the first few days after unprotected sex or contraceptive failure. For more information about emergency contraception, please visit RHTP's website [here](#).

Susannah Baruch, Interim President & CEO, Reproductive Health Technologies Project is available for interview upon request.