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## **Emergency Contraception Now Available on Store Shelves Nationwide**

(Washington, DC) -- Statement by Jessica Arons, President & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project, on Plan B One-Step<sup>®</sup> emergency contraception's availability on store shelves without a prescription or age limit as of August 1, 2013:

“After a decade-long fight, emergency contraception will finally be in women’s hands, where it belongs. Stores nationwide are now stocking Plan B One-Step on their shelves.

Finally, anyone can purchase this safe, effective product without a prescription or identification, eliminating unnecessary barriers to this time-sensitive product and giving everyone who needs it direct access to another option for preventing pregnancy. This is definitely a moment to celebrate!

Though some obstacles to emergency contraception may still exist—including an average price tag of \$48 a dose for Plan B One-Step--the bottom line is we’ve achieved a major milestone today. In a country where nearly half of all pregnancies are unplanned, effective and accessible back-up birth control isn’t just a matter of convenience; it’s an urgent health need.

While marking this significant advancement in women’s health, we won’t easily forget the struggle it took to get here. For too long, political interests and ideology trumped sound science and public health concerns—and they continue to plague Food and Drug Administration decisions regarding emergency contraception. We know our work to make emergency contraception accessible to anyone who needs a second chance to prevent an unintended pregnancy isn’t over. Lower-cost generics are still being held hostage to age restrictions and prescription requirements. Our work will continue.

But today, we celebrate this enormous accomplishment for women’s health and well-being.”

For more information about emergency contraception, please visit <http://ecotc.tumblr.com>.

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**Jessica Arons, President & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project, is available for interview upon request.**