

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

**CAMPUS HEALTH CENTER POLICIES NATIONWIDE
PUT YOUNG WOMEN'S HEALTH AT RISK**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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September 2005, [insert school name, city name] – Every day thousands of young women face the possibility of an unintended pregnancy because of unprotected intercourse, birth control failure or sexual assault. Emergency contraception (EC) could prevent up to 800,000 abortions a year, but many women will never learn about EC because of their campus's health center policies. EC is 95% effective in preventing pregnancy when taken within 24 hours of unprotected intercourse. If EC is not provided on campus or if campus health centers are closed on weekends, many young women will never get the choice to prevent an unintended pregnancy.

This fall, the Women's Capital Corporation – the manufacturer of one form of EC, Plan B® – will petition the Federal Drug Administration to change the distribution status of EC from prescription to over-the-counter. More than 70 medical and women's health organizations, including the American Medical Association (AMA), support over-the-counter distribution of EC. Such a change in EC's distribution status would eliminate many obstacles for women seeking to prevent unintended pregnancy – including campus health centers not offering EC and pharmacies refusing to fill EC prescriptions.

[insert name of school]'s Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance President [insert President's name] discussed her group's campaign to make EC more available to young women on campuses across the country.

“EC is safe and effective. EC meets all the FDA requirements for over-the-counter distribution. Unencumbered access to EC could cut in half the number of unintended pregnancies in the US every year. Women on our campus and every college campus have the right to comprehensive, local reproductive health services – including EC.”

[insert President's last name] went on to explain, “Only 20% of rape victims are given emergency contraception. That means thousands of women may face not only the trauma of surviving sexual assault, but also the physical and emotional impact of an unintended pregnancy resulting from rape. That is unacceptable.”

Maine, California, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, and New Mexico, (with New Hampshire and Oregon pending legislation) have already passed laws allowing women to obtain EC directly from a pharmacist. Students in every state of the country are petitioning the FDA this fall to make emergency contraception available over-the-counter.

Feminist Majority Leadership Alliances are student run, nationally affiliated campus groups supported by the Feminist Majority Foundation. Leadership Alliances constitute the largest permanent network of young feminist activists in the world, and provide participants with opportunities to develop their leadership and organizing skills.