



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

5712 '01 MAY 21 P2:09 Department of Social Concerns
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May 18th, 2001

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear FDA,

It is a well known and documented scientific fact that a new, distinct, unique human life begins at the time of conception. This is not a matter of religion, a matter of whether or not there is a soul. One may or may not believe that people have souls, but that does not give them the right to kill another human being. The scientific, biological fact of the matter is that at the time of conception there is a new human life, growing and thriving, completely distinct, even though dependent on the mother (just as a baby is dependent on its mother, but is still a distinct, unique human being; there is only a change of geography, and means of eating and obtaining oxygen).

The "Morning After Pill" has been proven to cause a newly conceived human being to die: in a word, it is abortifacient. To call this pill a contraceptive is completely unethical. For one, it violates informed consent-it is falsely advertised; and further, as just stated, it is a well known abortifacient drug. It is astounding that there is even a consideration of offering this abortifacient drug over-the-counter.

It would be good to keep in mind that women who use this, and are told after the fact that it can cause the abortion of a new human being, would likely have grounds to file lawsuits. It would also be good to keep in mind that selling drugs that can cause abortions violates parental consent in those states which require a minor to have their parent's permission to obtain an abortion.

For these and a myriad of other moral and ethical reasons to not provide this drug over-the-counter (or to offer it under any circumstances for that matter), I urge you to not sell this drug over-the-counter. Respectfully yours,

Sincerely,

Keith Bérubé

Keith Bérubé

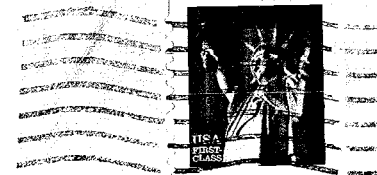
Diocesan Respect Life Coordinator
Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

DIP-0075

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Catholic Charities and Social Concerns Vicariate
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