Is the Morning-After Pill Really Contraception?

Yes! The Morning-After Pill (MAP) is made from the exact same stuff that’s in birth-control pills (it’s just a higher dose), and it works in the exact same way to prevent pregnancy. MAP can be effective in preventing pregnancy up to five days after sex, but the longer you wait to take it, the less effective it is.

When the FDA administrators decided against making MAP over-the-counter, they went against the FDA’s own expert medical advisory committees, the American Medical Association, the New England Journal of Medicine, and all of the women who need it. But they didn’t go against the White House. When the FDA decided to ease restrictions and make MAP “behind the counter,” they conceded as little as they could to appease feminists, the medical community, and still adhere to the administration’s wishes. The decision to block women’s access to the Morning-After Pill plainly displays this administration’s contempt for birth control. American women would be able to buy MAP without a prescription today (just like women in 45 other countries) if it weren’t for the rabid, anti-birth control extremists in the White House, Congress, and our state legislatures.

Does this make you angry? Help us do something about it!

Help stop the attacks on our birth-control rights!

Women should decide when and if we have children - not men and certainly not the government! We demand unrestricted access to all forms of contraception, abortion, childcare, and healthcare. In fact, all of these things should be free - like they are in many other countries! We can win greater freedom for women if we unite and fight!

Join a feminist group that is fighting for women’s access to birth control and abortion!

www.womensliberation.org

The Anti-Birth Control Line of the Bush Administration

Bush Does NOT Stand for Women!

There is a movement steadily gathering steam in this country against birth control.

Of the some 39 million American women who are sexually active (with men), 95% use a form of contraception. Obviously, this anti-birth control movement doesn’t represent the majority of women in this country.

Unfortunately this movement does have the support of the anti-birth control extremists in the White House.

National Women’s Liberation
http://www.womensliberation.org

Bush’s Record on Birth Control

- In George W. Bush’s first budget to Congress (April 9, 2001), he sacked the provision that required insurance companies to cover contraceptives for 9 million federal employees (something House Democrats later reinstated).
- On April 9, 2001, Bush blocked U.S. grants to family-planning groups that provide contraceptive and abortion services/counseling overseas.
- Bush is an ardent supporter of abstinence-only education programs, which prohibit discussion of contraception. Studies have shown that abstinence-only programs do NOT keep teens from having sex, and certainly do not teach them how to protect themselves from pregnancy and STDs.
- On March 1, 2002, Bush appointed Tom Coburn and Joe McIlhaney to lead the Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. Both Coburn and McIlhaney have spoken out against condom use, and have worked to push abstinence as the only means to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- Bush nominated Justice Janice Rogers Brown for U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Brown upheld the right of Catholic hospitals to refuse to include birth control in employees’ health coverage.
- Dr. David Hager, whom Bush appointed to the FDA’s Advisory Committee for Reproductive Health Drugs, refuses to prescribe contraception to unmarried women in his practice. Bush also appointed Dr. Joseph Stanford to the same committee. In his family practice, Stanford refuses to prescribe birth control at all.
- In December, 2002, Assistant Secretary of State Arthur Dewey, a right-wing Bush appointee, promised that the U.S. would block any U.N. policies that contain the words "reproductive health" or "consistent condom use." The United States was voted down at the U.N. Population Conference. Delegates all over the world said America’s position at this conference put women’s health at risk.
- Bush also appointed acting FDA Commissioner Lester Crawford and Stephen Galson, who decided not to approve the Morning-After Pill for over-the-counter sales, and Andrew C. von Eschenbach, who ultimately made the Morning-after Pill a pharmacist-only prescribed drug.

The Movement Against Contraception

All over the country, stories are cropping up about women whose doctors and pharmacists are now refusing to prescribe or fill their prescriptions for birth control.

Pharmacists for Life is one of several national organizations that encourages pharmacists to deny women access to birth-control pills. In many states, including Mississippi and Michigan, the anti-birth control movement succeeded in passing “refusal clauses,” which allow pharmacists to refuse to fill prescriptions for birth control on religious or “ethical” grounds.

Most anti-abortion groups conveniently plead the fifth on the issue of contraception, but there are some who are honest about not wanting women to have or use it.

The American Life League is one such organization. ALL says contraception promotes the “immoral” attitudes that make people want to have sex but not want to have children. On its website, the American Life League says, “The practice of contraception is intrinsically evil,” and concedes that though it may not be possible to outlaw birth control right now, it is certainly working toward that end.

While Bush tries to be covert about his opposition to contraception, choosing instead to use his executive appointments to limit women’s contraceptive access, it is no secret that he is against abortion. He has done more to undermine women’s abortion rights than any other president in history. Abortion is just the most obvious example of the Bush administration’s ongoing campaign to criminalize birth control.

The bottom line is that the Bush administration wants to punish women for having sex, and to keep us from having control over our lives. Why would they bother doing this?

Because when women can’t control how many children we have, we don’t have as much money, power, time, or freedom as men.

This often forces women into lower-paying jobs, or else keeps us in the home where we work for free. Programs everywhere are getting slashed, the very benefits that make it easier for us to have children: childcare, healthcare, education, overtime pay, etc. It forces us to struggle more to get by, and the more tired we are from struggling, the less inclined we will be to fight for the things that will make our lives better.

Bush and his cronies have done everything in their power to take away women’s options, and they have no intention of stopping.

This is why the Bush administration is against contraception and abortion, and this is why they pose such a serious threat to our equality!