

New York State Right to Life Committee, Inc.

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Re: S.892 (Krueger)/A.85(Paulin)

The New York State Right to Life Committee (NYSRTL) opposes emergency contraception (EC), also known as levonorgestrol or trade name "Plan B."

The mission of the New York State Right to Life Committee begins when life begins. We oppose the deliberate destruction of innocent human life. NYSRTL takes no position on true contraception, i.e., the prevention of fertilization. Once fertilization – the uniting of egg and sperm – has occurred, a new life has begun and NYSRTL is opposed to the destruction of human lives regardless of age or location.

NYSRTL opposes all methods of birth control that act as abortifacients primarily or occasionally.

NYSRTL recognizes scientific opinions stating that the predominant mechanism by which EC works is to prevent ovulation, thereby preventing fertilization. However, prevention of implantation is also a cited possible mechanism by which EC works. In recognition of the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) product labeling for "Plan B" which includes prevention of implantation as a possible mechanism, NYSRTL has chosen to oppose the liberalization of this drug's distribution until the evidence more clearly shows, and/or a preponderance of experts agree, that EC does not act by destroying a human embryo.

Barr Laboratories, Planned Parenthood, Alan Guttmacher Institute, Kaiser Family Foundation, the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association and others proclaim that EC can work on some occasions by preventing implantation.

NYSRTL recognizes that EC is not the same as RU-486, which intentionally and undeniably acts to end the life of an implanted baby. However, prevention of implantation would just as surely end the life of an embryo.

Pro-abortion organizations have been engaging in an effort to redefine pregnancy as beginning at implantation. Mainstreaming EC at this time would undermine respect for life and continue the trend to dehumanize the human embryo, a stage of life from which we all began.

NYSRTL will continue to proclaim the scientific fact that life begins at fertilization or by somatic cell nuclear transfer (cloning). Pregnancy begins at the moment a new human being *exists*, not when that human being changes locations. Attempting to redefine pregnancy is an intentional strategy to allow for the destruction of these members of the human family.

Pro-abortion groups claim, and the FDA proclaims, that EC may work to end a human embryo's life.

Therefore, until the evidence is more definitive and persuasive otherwise, NYSRTL **opposes** the liberalization of emergency contraception distribution.