



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Statement by Belle Taylor-McGhee, President and CEO,  
Pacific Institute for Women's Health, on FDA's Decision to Follow Court  
Ruling To Open Up Access To Plan B Emergency Contraception**

***"FDA Agrees To Do The Right Thing"***

(Los Angeles/Oakland, CA) - The Pacific Institute for Women's Health (PIWH) applauds the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) decision to end the senseless delays to allow over-the-counter access to Plan B emergency contraception to 17 year olds. The FDA restricted access to consumers 18 and older two years ago despite its own scientific advisory committee's conclusion that Plan B is safe for women of all ages.

After a federal court ordered the FDA earlier this month to rethink its earlier action, the women's health community had hoped that the FDA would not appeal and do the right thing. Today's FDA decision to do just that is long overdue. Now 17 year olds can get Plan B without a prior prescription. Yet we are still mindful that women under 17 must still have a prescription to get Plan B – despite lack of scientific evidence that a prior prescription is medically necessary.

Full access to all women in preventing unintended pregnancy is a goal that we will not let go. PIWH will continue to advocate for unrestricted access to Plan B for all women – regardless of age. Meanwhile, certified pharmacists in California and eight other states (AK, HI, MA, ME, WA, VT, NH, NM) continue to provide Plan B without a prior prescription from a doctor or clinic.

For more information please visit our website at [www.piwh.org](http://www.piwh.org).

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