



Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health

My name is Aimee Gallagher, Director of Communications and Policy of the *National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health* (NPWH). I am presenting today at the request of Susan Wysocki, NPWH's President and CEO, and the NPWH board of directors. NPWH was originally founded as the *National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Family Planning*. Ensuring contraceptive options for women has always been at the heart of NPWH's mission.

Today, we are testifying in favor of the approval of an additional method of emergency contraception. You will hear from many people today about the high rate of unintended pregnancy for American women. You will also hear that even with the ability of women to access Plan B, that use of that product is sub optimal in terms of use by women who are exposed to an unintended pregnancy.

As nurse practitioners, our members are pragmatists. They understand that best intentions are not reality. They recognize that human beings are not perfect. Women's lives are complicated. Unintended exposure to the potential for an unintended pregnancy knows no age limit.

There are many reasons that women do not make it into a pharmacy immediately for Plan B after exposure. Adding the emergency contraceptive under consideration today, will increase women's options for dealing with the possibility that they might have been exposed to an unintended pregnancy. Ulipristal acetate has been shown to be effective for up to five days versus 72 hours with the current method of emergency contraception. Perhaps, this product will take some of the "emergency" out of emergency contraception and allow more access to women in this situation. Our solutions to unintended pregnancy and the prevention of abortion need to be practical and fit the needs of all women regardless of age or reason for seeking these therapeutic options.

If this panel finds this product to be safe and effective, we hope that there will be no delay in approving its use by US women. Outside the US, Ella has been found to be safe and effective. It has been shown to be primarily an effective contraceptive by delaying ovulation. It has not been shown to have effects on established pregnancies. We hope that this product will be approved not only by this panel, but also through the entire FDA process through solid science and not politics, as was the unfortunate case with Plan B.

Thank you very much for your attention.

*Founded in 1980, the mission of the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) is to assure the provision of quality health care to women of all ages by nurse practitioners. NPWH defines quality health care to be inclusive of an individual's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. NPWH recognizes and respects women as decision-makers for their health care. NPWH's mission includes protecting and promoting a woman's right to make her own choices regarding her health within the context of her personal, religious, cultural, and family beliefs.*