

backupyourbirthcontrol.org



1-888-NOT-2-LATE

## **All Wal-Mart Pharmacies Must Stock Plan B®**

*Bentonville, Ark. (March 3, 2006) - Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. today confirmed that all of its pharmacies will begin carrying Plan B contraceptives, effective March 20.*

-- Wal-Mart Press Release

**As a Wal-Mart customer, and a participant in the national *Back Up Your Birth Control Day of Activism*, I urge you to immediately fulfill Wal-Mart's corporate mandate to stock Plan B® emergency contraception (EC).**

By stocking *and* dispensing EC, your Wal-Mart store will give women in our community a long overdue, safe and effective second chance to prevent pregnancy.

**Pharmacists are a critical link between EC and the women who need it.**

Now that an over-the-counter form of EC is available to adults, many more Americans are turning to their pharmacy for information and services about this back-up birth control method. Women expect their local Wal-Mart pharmacy not only to stock EC, but to dispense EC, and in the case of teens, expect their Plan B prescriptions will be filled.

### **What is Emergency Contraception?**

- A safe and effective way to *prevent* pregnancy after unprotected sex.
- EC is available *without a prescription* to women 18 and older at the pharmacy. Women younger than 18 need a prescription from their doctor or other health care provider.
- Can be taken up to 5 days after sex, *however the sooner EC is used, the more effective it is.*
  - Contains the same active ingredients as hormonal contraceptives.
- EC is *NOT* the abortion pill or RU-486. EC cannot interrupt an established pregnancy.
  - EC works by delaying or inhibiting ovulation, inhibiting fertilization, or preventing implantation of a fertilized egg in the uterus.
- Products: (1) Plan B® (progestin-only) (2) High doses of regular oral contraceptives.

*On or around the 2007 Back Up Your Birth Control Day of Activism – March 20 - more than 100 national and local medical organizations and women's health advocacy groups are uniting to educate women, pharmacists, and health care providers about emergency contraception.*