



Minnesota National Organization for Women

July 27, 2005

John Gremer  
Director of Community Affairs  
Walgreens  
104 Wilmot Road, MS #1444  
Deerfield, Illinois 60015

Dear John:

On behalf of the Minnesota NOW and the 90 percent of U.S. women who use some form of contraceptive between the ages of 18 and 44, I extend my sincere thanks for listening to women's voices and taking action. We are extremely pleased with your written commitment that all Walgreens' prescriptions for contraceptives will be filled without placing undue burden upon patients, regardless of an individual pharmacist's religious or other beliefs.

We're proud to have helped Walgreens understand that when pharmacists in a particular store object to dispensing contraceptives, some women might not be able to drive to another store. This may be due to the time sensitivity of many of contraceptives, issues of mobility or disability and/or economic issues, whether it's money for bus fare or flexibility to take additional time off work. We have remained insistent because when women can't get the contraceptives they need, the risk of unintended pregnancy puts the lives of young women on the line: these women are our daughters, our nieces and our sisters.

In light of your letter, we are thrilled to cancel our Birth Control NOW demonstration that was scheduled to take place in front of one of your local stores. While we remain committed to ensuring legislatively that women receive access to all contraceptives, including emergency contraceptives, the moment they present a prescription, we believe your business practice is one for your competitors to emulate in the interim. We will tell them so, and we will tell our 2,400 members to shop your stores.

Again, please accept my sincerest thanks for our conversations, and, most importantly, your help protecting women's lives.

Warmest regards,

Erin Matson  
Minnesota NOW President