



## **Statement of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy on the FDA's Recent Decision About Emergency Contraception**

(Washington, DC) — In response to a decision by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to lower the age at which individuals are allowed to purchase the emergency contraceptive, Plan B®, over-the-counter to 17, Sarah Brown, CEO of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy issued the following statement:

“We applaud the decision by the FDA to allow 17 year-olds to obtain emergency contraception (EC) over-the-counter. There is good reason to believe that sexually active teenagers in particular would benefit from wider availability of EC, which over-the-counter status provides. Given that more than 80 percent of teen pregnancies are unplanned and that more than 65 percent of teens in high school have sex by the time they graduate, the National Campaign believes that making emergency contraception more accessible can play an important role in helping teens avoid pregnancy. In light of the recent news that the national teen birth rate increased 5 percent between 2005 and 2007—and that some combination of more sex and less contraception among teens is driving this trend—wider availability of EC is an important step in the right direction.

Making EC more easily available is not inconsistent with a strong message to teens that abstinence from sex remains the best way to avoid too-early pregnancy and parenthood, nor does it negate the importance of ongoing communication between parents and their teens about sex, love and relationships.”

**About the National Campaign:** The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy is a private, non-profit, non-partisan organization that seeks to improve the lives and future prospects of children and families. Our specific strategy is to prevent teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy, especially among single, young adults. We support a combination of responsible values and behavior by both men and women and responsible policies in both the public and private sectors.