



# Advocacy Update

Sent June 12, 2013

## **Emergency Contraception Access**

Yesterday, the Obama Administration announced that Plan B will now be made available over-the-counter without age restriction. In response, Rabbi Marla J. Feldman, Executive Director of Women of Reform Judaism, issued a press statement. The full statement can be [found here](#), and included:

“We applaud the Obama Administration’s decision to allow women of all ages to access Plan B emergency contraception over-the-counter. This is an historic step toward ensuring that all women have access to the medical care that they need and deserve. Emergency contraception is safe and effective, restores a woman’s control over her reproductive health, and reduces the many physical and emotional risks of unintended pregnancies.

It is especially crucial that teenagers are able to access emergency contraception in a timely and unrestricted manner. . . . The Obama Administration’s reversal this week of its earlier position that required a Plan B prescription for those aged 16 and younger respects women’s moral agency and will advance reproductive health.”

## **Equal Rights Amendment**

In 1972, Congress passed the Equal Rights Amendment. Though this was now over 40 years ago, the Amendment has yet to be ratified by the requisite 38 states, and therefore is not incorporated into our constitution. There is work to be done - we still must act to pass this important piece of legislation. To that end, members of the current Congress has introduced a joint resolution, which would enable the ratification process to continue until three more states ratify this crucial amendment, and it can be formally incorporated into the U.S. Constitution.

In 1973, WRJ passed [a resolution](#) in support of the Equal Rights Amendment. It called for the support of an amendment that, if ratified, “would rectify long-standing injustices which have deprived women of education, employment and financial opportunities equal to those of men, as well as end discriminatory public laws which have contributed to a second-class status for women in American society. Illustrations of such discrimination are [*sic*] innumerable.”

Discrimination based on sex still occurs across America in different forms. The Equal Rights Amendment would rectify current disparities, and would be immune to other unjust state laws, thereby safeguarding current protections that could be overturned or repealed by individual legislatures and preventing future discriminatory legislation.

[Click here](#) to send a letter to your member of Congress urging them to support the joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (S.J.RES 15/H.J.RES 43) and thereby allowing its future passage.