

August 24, 2006 - Slaughter Responds to FDA Approval of Over-the-Counter Sale of Plan B

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 24, 2006

Slaughter Responds to FDA Approval of Over-the-Counter Sale of Plan B

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today issued the following statement following the Food and Drug Administration's decision to allow the over-the-counter (OTC) sale of Plan B emergency contraception to individuals 18 and older:

"This was a hard-fought and well-deserved victory for women and women's health advocates. It's been more than two and a half years since the FDA's advisory panel recommended OTC approval of Plan B," Rep. Slaughter said. "Overly-politicized FDA leaders could no longer turn their back on the overwhelming scientific evidence supporting the safety of Plan B. This decision will help reduce the rate of unintended pregnancy and the need for abortion."

"Unfortunately, misplaced political calculations are still undermining the FDA's ability to render impartial scientific judgment that Americans depend on," Rep. Slaughter continued. "The age restriction put in place is a political fig leaf and sends the wrong message about the product's safety. All available evidence shows Plan B to be both safe and effective. Unintended pregnancies pose great risks to young women in this country, so we should give them all the tools they need for prevention."

"The de-politicization of the FDA is long overdue," Rep. Slaughter said. "This decision is a step in the right direction. But until politics stops trumping science at our federal agencies, the real needs of real Americans will continue to be ignored."

###