Resolution to End Age Restrictions for Emergency Contraception (EC) Access

WHEREAS the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) states that, “Quality healthcare in family medicine is the achievement of optimal physical and mental health through accessible, safe, cost-effective care that is based on best evidence” and

WHEREAS the AAFP “supports the use of evidence-based and explicitly stated clinical practice guidelines” that are “developed using rigorous evidence-based methodology,” and

WHEREAS the AAFP opposes all discrimination in any form, including but not limited to, that on the basis of . . . age,” and

WHEREAS the current age restriction on the over-the-counter sale of emergency contraception (EC) has been repeatedly shown to have no medical basis and

WHEREAS scientific evidence indicates that adolescents are capable of understanding the appropriate use of emergency contraception and that the availability of emergency contraception is not linked to increased sexual activity or sexual risk-taking and

WHEREAS emergency contraception has a limited effectiveness window, so it is extremely important that patients be able to access this medication without unnecessary delay, and

WHEREAS numerous professional bodies, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Society of Adolescent Health and Medicine, the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, and the American Public Health Association have issued statements recognizing that EC is safe and effective for all females of reproductive age, and should be approved for over-the-counter access without age restriction, now be it

RESOLVED that the AAFP will advocate for emergency contraception to be available over-the-counter to all women of reproductive age, and be it further

RESOLVED that the AAFP will instruct its delegates to present this resolution to the AAFP Congress of Delegates.

http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;116/4/1026#SEC16
http://www.acog.org/~/media/News%20Releases/20111207Release.ashx
12 Ibid.
14 American Public Health Association. Support of Public Education about Emergency Contraception and Reduction or Elimination of Barriers to Access. Policy Date: 11/18/2003 Policy Number: 200315
http://www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/policysearch/default.htm?id=1252