



November 18, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
The Capitol
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
The Capitol
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, and Members of Congress,

An abortion crisis is developing in America through a radical shift in policy in the works that will create a reckless *Death-by-Mail*, on-line, Chemical Abortion Pill market. You have a chance to get ahead of this extreme change in abortion policy that will rival the societal change that followed *Roe v. Wade*.

Almost 50 years ago, two Supreme Court rulings – [*Roe v. Wade*](#) and [*Doe v. Bolton*](#) – caused a radical change to abortion policy in the United States from which we have not recovered and without any [Constitutional foundation](#) other than what was created from thin air. As Harvard law professor [Laurence Tribe wrote in 1973](#): “In *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* (the court) impos(ed) limits on permissible abortion legislation so severe that no abortion law in the United States remained valid.” [Roe allows](#) for abortion through all nine months, for any reason at all, and sometimes with taxpayer funding, even although not every state or every abortion vendor offers abortion at that extreme level.

Whether that kind of abortion policy continues is in the hands of the Supreme Court, which is considering both a case from Texas, which allows for private action against abortion vendors, and a case from Mississippi, which addresses whether limits on abortion prior to when a baby can live outside the womb will be allowed. Huge policy shifts may soon be possible, especially when it comes to limits on abortion later in pregnancy.

But while all eyes are focused on the Supreme Court [a change is quietly underway](#) at the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) just as radical as *Roe* and with far reaching implications for most abortions. The FDA is contemplating getting rid of health and safety standards for Chemical Abortion Pills used to end preborn life currently up to [11 weeks](#) of pregnancy. This is a sweeping change when you

consider that more than 92 percent of abortions take place before 13 weeks of pregnancy, [according to the CDC](#).

As I wrote in National Review: “Science has always taken a [back seat to politics](#) when it comes to chemical-abortion pills, examples of which include, RU-486, a [two-drug combination](#) of mifepristone and misoprostol that together ends a life. The first drug starves a baby by cutting off progesterone, sometimes called the “[pregnancy hormone](#)” that equips the uterus to feed and protect the baby. The second causes horrific contractions, expelling what can be a living infant.”

[Consider that](#) the “pills cause [four times the complications](#) as surgical abortion, with a risk of death that is [ten times higher](#), according to a National Institute of Health Study.”

Yet the FDA is saying [in court documents](#) that the health and safety standards in place for Chemical Abortion Pills that require supervised distribution may be dropped **as early as December 16**, allowing dangerous on-line, no test sales of the pills. These standards known as REMS – Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy – are in place to prevent injury and death to the mothers taking the pills. Such a change will be good for Corporate Abortion as they can easily sell abortion pills on-line, unhampered by examinations or follow care for women, who may want to survive taking Chemical Abortion Pills with their lives and their fertility.

Abortion would be available in everyone’s back pocket. During the Covid-19 crisis, Planned Parenthood announced that it would have the capacity to do “telehealth services” [in all 50 states](#), meaning that every phone can become an abortion vendor, capable of distributing Chemical Abortion pills if the FDA drops requirements for examination and in-person distribution. Currently, [96 percent](#) of 18- to 29-year-olds have cell phones (and the other 4 percent can probably borrow one). Anyone, including abusive partners and sex traffickers, could get the drugs, giving them to women without their knowledge or their consent.

The REMS save lives.

[Examination and prescreening](#) are needed to protect women’s lives as ectopic pregnancy won’t be ended by the pills, which also don’t work well later in pregnancy. An ultrasound is needed to determine location and length of the pregnancy. A blood test is needed to determine if a woman’s blood type is Rh-negative, which impacts [15 % of the population](#). Unless a Rh-negative woman is given a shot of Rhogam after an abortion, she may become infertile because of anti-bodies that form in her blood, and as a result, she could [suffer many miscarriages](#). Most importantly, [more than 20 women](#) have died after taking the pills.

And many women are taking Chemical Abortion Pills. Kaiser Family Foundation, a respected healthcare resource, notes that [54 % of abortions](#) before 9 weeks are now committed with Chemical Abortion Pills, which cause [more than 40 percent](#) of all deaths by abortion in the United States.

But Congress can intervene.

Step One: Co-Sponsor H.R. 5136. Rep. Bob Good’s [Teleabortion Prevention Act of 2021](#), H.R. 5136, will prevent deadly on-line abortion pill distribution by requiring abortionists to examine a mother before selling her the pills, which is a life-saving/fertility protecting effort, and it also demands a follow up examination that can eliminate the risks for life-threatening infection from an incomplete abortion. This not only protects women’s lives and health, but it also ensures that a woman is not being coerced or abused.

Step Two: Hold the Biden Administration accountable for risking women’s lives through reckless abortion policies and personnel.

As I and Sen. Steve Daines wrote [in Newsweek](#) in April, “Consider that on [the same day](#) news was breaking about the gutted health and safety standards for chemical abortion, the FDA also announced it was pulling the

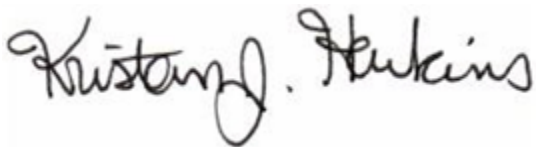
Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine because, out of 7 million people who had taken it, six had suffered blood clots and one person died. Yet despite the fact that chemical abortion pills have been a factor in the deaths of [more than 20 women and millions of unborn children](#), Biden's FDA not only kept the drugs on the market, but authorized, in effect, a nationwide experiment in do-it-yourself abortions. There was no semblance of an [‘abundance of caution’](#) in the FDA's abortion pill announcement.”

Recent [news that President Biden](#) has nominated Dr. [Robert Califf](#) to head the FDA indicates that women are at even greater risk, given that while in the Obama administration, Califf presided over [reduced health and safety standards for](#) Chemical Abortion Pills. He would be joining an administration known for [radical abortion activism](#) and [abusive use of political power](#) to serve abortion industry interests.

While the Pro-Life Generation wants to abolish abortion, there are many reasons to oppose distribution of Chemical Abortion Pills. Even for those who say they support abortion, that’s no argument for these pills to be used recklessly. These Pills Kill. They end preborn life and can end a mother’s life as well.

In light of expectations that the FDA will throw away health and safety standards that keep women alive, it’s vital to act now to prevent the Biden Administration from eliminating the REMS. No medical reason exists to weaken protections for women, who will be exposed to the deadly risks of the drug and potential abusers. The pro-life path forward – stopping the on-line sales of these drugs – protects both women and the preborn.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristan Hawkins". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kristan Hawkins

President, Students for Life Action

Students for Life Action (SFLAction), a 501c4, along with its sister organization, Students for Life of America (SFLA), a 501c3, make up the nation’s largest, pro-life, youth organization as well as operating a political and policy operation engaging people of all ages. Together they work to end abortion, the human rights issue of our day, and provide political, legal, and community support for women and their children, born and preborn.

Headquartered in Fredericksburg, VA, SFLA has more than 1,250 groups on middle, high school, college, university, medical and law school campuses in all 50 states. SFLA creates strategy, policy and programming that connects those most targeted for abortion with people ready to help and builds a framework for political engagement on their behalf. SFLA/SFLAction has more conversations with those most targeted by the abortion industry every day, week, and year than any other pro-life outreach in the world. Every week, Students for Life entities reach more than 2 million people across social media platforms to have nearly 200,000 digital conversations. Under the leadership of SFLA/SFLAction President Kristan Hawkins, who was recruited to build the organization, SFLA has grown over the last 15 years into a \$15 million organization preparing for a Post-Roe America.