



Dr. Susan F. Wood Testifies House Hearing on Safety of RU-486

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 2006*

Contact: Chrissy Faessen, 202-220-3769

Washington D.C. -- The House Committee on Government Reform Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources held a hearing today to discuss the safety of mifepristone after four women who had medical abortions, died from a rare bacterial infection, *Clostridium Sordelli*.

Dr. Susan F. Wood, former Assistant Commissioner for Women's Health and Director of the Office of Women's Health at the FDA testified at the hearing.

Dr. Wood acknowledged the tragedy of these deaths, while noting that, "experts at CDC, FDA and NIH reviewed the current information and appeared to recognize that the infections and deaths due to *C. sordellii* are not due to a simple drug effect. Getting to the bottom of what puts women at risk for this infection, and what can be done to prevent and treat it, is of the highest importance."

Dr. Wood urged the FDA to put women's health before politics saying, "politics must not be allowed to trump science when the health of women is at stake. Scientists must rely on scientific fact, not political ideology, when researching the cause, effects, and opportunities for prevention of *C. sordelli*."

For press availability for Dr. Wood or a copy of her full testimony please contact:
Chrissy Faessen @ 202-220-3769.

###