

JOINT STATEMENT

Pro-Life Leaders Call on FDA to Restore Mifepristone Safeguards

Organizations and leaders call on FDA Commissioner nominee Dr. Heidi Overton to reverse Biden-era mifepristone policies while the FDA completes its ongoing review.

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, call on FDA Commissioner nominee Dr. Heidi Overton to commit to restoring the safeguards governing mifepristone that existed before the Biden administration while the FDA completes its ongoing review of the drug.

Dr. Overton's confirmation hearing provides an important opportunity for her to make clear what she plans to do about the FDA's extremely permissive policy governing mifepristone.

There are good reasons the FDA policy should not be this permissive.

First, there are serious concerns about the safety of the drug. As just one example, a recent study found that nearly 11% of women taking mifepristone have a serious "adverse event" within 45 days of taking it.

Second, the permissiveness of the current policy is increasing the risk of abuse, especially by men who seek to force women to have abortions without their consent or knowledge. By allowing mifepristone to be obtained without an in-person medical visit, the current FDA policy makes it more difficult to screen vulnerable women outside the presence of potential abusers.

Third, mail-order abortion is undermining state laws enacted to protect unborn life and women.

Despite the enactment of new pro-life laws in approximately 20 states since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, abortion numbers nationwide are still increasing. The Biden administration removed the in-person dispensing requirement for mifepristone and allowed pharmacies to dispense the drug. Abortion drugs are now being mailed from pro-abortion states into pro-life states, as well as being sent to the United States from overseas.

Shield laws protecting abortionists are facilitating approximately 14,770 abortions in states with pro-life laws each month, meaning that around 177,240 lives could be saved annually in pro-life states if their laws were respected. State governments attempting to protect life are being undermined by abortion drugs mailed in from outside their borders.

The FDA is central to this system because it is the federal agency responsible for the approval and protocol governing mifepristone, the most common drug used to kill children in the womb and the only drug designed with abortion as its primary purpose.

We are told that the FDA is conducting an ongoing study of mifepristone. However, that study has supposedly been ongoing for nearly two years.

The question is straightforward: Will Dr. Overton at least agree to revert to the policy in place before the Biden administration, a policy that provided at least some minimal safeguards and medical oversight for women until that elusive review is complete?

All of this is happening on President Trump's watch, despite major advances in recent years in the pro-life movement, not the least of which was the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. The Trump FDA continues to abide by a Biden-era regimen allowing mifepristone to be dispensed through the mail without a physical exam, proper testing, or the guarantee of being able to screen vulnerable women outside the presence of potential abusers.

Questions That Should Be Answered

At her confirmation hearing, Dr. Overton should be asked:

- Will she immediately restore the safeguards that existed before the Biden administration while the FDA completes its review of mifepristone?
- Will she decisively end the Biden-era protocol for mifepristone rather than continue allowing this dangerous drug to be dispensed under the current regimen?
- Will she investigate the adverse events associated with mifepristone and ensure that FDA policy is based on a rigorous examination of the drug's impact on women?
- How will she address a mail-order-abortion system that enables abusers to obtain abortion drugs and use them against women without their knowledge or consent?
- How will the FDA address the interstate distribution of mifepristone that is undermining the laws of states seeking to protect unborn life and women?

American mothers and babies need an FDA that defends them both in word and deed.

We therefore call on Dr. Heidi Overton and the Trump administration to restore meaningful safeguards for mifepristone immediately while the FDA completes its review, and to end policies that have enabled abortion drugs to be distributed through the mail without adequate medical oversight.

We urge Dr. Overton and the Trump administration to be the defenders that American families need.

Sincerely,

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