

For Immediate Release:

June 28, 2006

For more information :

Melissa Adkins WVFL Leg. Director (304) 619-3458

Pro-lifers Outraged by WVU Letter

West Virginians for Life released a copy of a letter on West Virginia University letterhead that was co-signed by the head of a private political group, WV Free. The purpose of the letter was to encourage primary care physicians to offer the dangerous abortion drug RU486 and to refer questions about the drug to WV Free.

“When it becomes public knowledge that WV Free, a radical pro-abortion lobbying organization, has co-opted a public institution and used our tax dollars to fund a mailing that solicits our doctors for abortion training, the majority of West Virginia taxpayers will be outraged,” said Charlotte Snead, West Virginians for Life President.

Serious questions have been raised about the safety and effectiveness of RU486. It has been linked to at least 10 deaths. Complications, often life threatening, have been reported in nearly a thousand women. In addition, the drug induced abortion fails nearly 25% of the time, requiring mothers to face the additional trauma and risk of a surgical abortion.

“It is irresponsible for West Virginia University to participate, at taxpayers’ expense, in such a biased promotion of a drug that has killed and injured women,” said Melissa Adkins, West Virginians for Life Legislative Director. “Citizens, particularly women, should demand that WVU fully inform doctors of the problems associated with RU486. West Virginians for Life calls on West Virginia University to set the record straight.”

West Virginians for Life, the state affiliate to the National Right to Life Committee, is the only statewide organization solely dedicated to the protection of human life. WVFL works in educational, legislative, and political activities to ensure the right to life for unborn children, people with disabilities, and elderly Americans.

#####

FAST FACTS ON RU486

*RU486 is the drug mifepristone, brand name Mifeprex.

*RU486 was developed by the French company Roussel-Uclaf, a subsidiary of the German company that manufactured the gas used by the Nazi regime to exterminate Jews.

*RU486 was FDA approved after its re-classification of an “unwanted pregnancy” as a “serious condition” under Subpart H, which allows for accelerated reviews of drugs for serious or life threatening illnesses.

*RU486 is manufactured by a Chinese firm that has been cited by the FDA for drug import violations and is distributed by Danco, Inc. located in the Cayman Islands.

*It is not clear whether the Chinese formula is the same as the one tested and approved in the U.S.

*RU486 can only be used during the first seven weeks of pregnancy and is *not* to be used by women who have asthma, high blood pressure, allergies, recent intake of steroid medication, IUD or oral contraceptive use, or a history of smoking. It is also not indicated for women who are obese or have a history of pregnancy complications or who suffer from hemorrhagic disorders (bleeding or clotting).

*Because of the dangers, RU486 is not to be used for girls under the age of 18 or women over the age of 35.

*There are several serious well-documented side effects associated with RU486 abortions including prolonged (up to 44 days) severe bleeding, heart attacks, vomiting, pain and death.