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STATEMENT OF THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM COALITION
IN SUPPORT OF HOLLY'S LAW, HR 1079

The Religious Freedom Coalition believes that with the rushed, "fast-track" approval of this dangerous drug, RU 486, the FDA has essentially allowed uncontrolled experimentation on unsuspecting women and adolescent girls who trust that the medical drugs legally available in the United States have been thoroughly tested for safety. In the case of 18 year old Holly Patterson and two other American women, the experiment went tragically wrong, ending in their deaths. Also, in addition to known harmful side effects, American drug companies have received reports of at least 600 cases of severe adverse side effects but will not release any information on what these side effects were.

The French tests the FDA relied upon were incomplete and did not meet the minimum standards which would have been required in the United States. FDA officials were well aware of the inadequacy of the testing. Very troubling also is the FDA recommendation that another drug called misoprostol, an ulcer medication, be used with the RU 486, since RU 486 does not reliably complete the abortion process when used by itself, and an incomplete abortion can be very dangerous. Although misoprostol had been properly tested as an ulcer medication, the two drugs used in combination did not undergo adequate testing.

And what was the reason for all the hurry? Was there some raging epidemic threatening the lives of countless women and girls--something that would meet the definition of a "severe or life-threatening illness" cited by the FDA? No, there were only normal pregnancies of the same sort that women have experienced since the beginning of the human race. Yet all of a sudden there was a need to rush through without adequate safeguards a drug which is in fact a human pesticide and which has many known serious side effects. We can only conclude that the motivation was ideology or profit.

The Religious Freedom Coalition strongly supports passage of Holly's Law, HR 1079, and we thank Congressman Bartlett and all the cosponsors for stepping forward to protect the lives and health of American women and girls.

Media contact: Peggy Birchfield, Executive Director
Phone: (202) 543-0300