

2018 REPORT CARD



SCHOOL: The Food and Drug Administration	TEACHER'S NOTE: <i>Scott – You've had some accomplishments this year but some problems too. We need you to do better in 2019. –The National Women's Health Network</i>
STUDENT'S NAME: Scott Gottlieb	
GRADE LEVEL: Commissioner	

SUBJECT: The Office of Women's Health (OWH)

DESCRIPTION: On July 19, Gottlieb announced that he planned to reorganize and downgrade the Office of Women's Health (OWH). This would have led to the office being defunded, demoted, and prevented from doing their work. On July 25, Gottlieb bowed to pressure from the Network, our allies, and Congressional champions of women's health and backed off on his plans.

GRADE:

COMMENTS: *Scott, Scott, Scott...did you think we wouldn't notice? The OWH has won more awards than any other office in the FDA, funds important research and addresses women's health needs. People value the OWH. Don't try this again.*

SUBJECT: Esmya

DESCRIPTION: There are very few non-surgical options for uterine fibroids, which are common and can interfere with work, quality of life, and fertility. Esmya, a drug intended to treat uterine fibroids, has been used for many years in Europe, but there have been at least eight cases of severe liver damage reported as a result. Ultimately, the FDA decided to not approve Esmya for market.

GRADE:

COMMENTS: *We're so proud of you! We can tell you did your research this time. You demonstrated that you can learn from others and put women first. Bravo!*

SUBJECT: Natural Cycles

DESCRIPTION: Natural Cycles, the first smartphone app to be approved as a contraceptive method by the FDA, is a high-tech version of the fertility awareness method. Natural Cycles uses personal health information uploaded by users to predict days on which it is and isn't safe to have unprotected sex. We're already hearing reports of high failure rates in Europe, where the app was first marketed. The app requires the use of another method to be effective at all times – something no other FDA-approved contraceptive requires. Additionally, the app is not required to comply with medical information privacy laws, making the user's health data vulnerable.

GRADE:

COMMENTS: *Scott, are you trying to be hip with the kids? We can't think of any other reason why you would think an app is a contraceptive. Did your friends put you up to this? We specifically said you couldn't work with Donald and Mike on this project. Revise ASAP.*

SUBJECT: Annovera

DESCRIPTION: Developed by Population Council and approved by the FDA, Annovera is a vaginal contraceptive system that provides protection against pregnancy for up to one year with monthly removal and reinsertion. This makes the device more affordable and better for the environment. Annovera requires no refrigeration and is the only long-acting contraceptive that's completely under the user's control.

GRADE:

COMMENTS: *Now this is what we're talking about! Scott, we are happy you made this decision based on scientific evidence and not politics. Why can't you always do that? You'd be a star student if you did.*