

**PRESS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE V.I. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATE**

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**Christensen to Represent US in London at  
Women's Conference on Pregnancy and Delivery**

(Washington, DC – November 1, 2007) -- Delegate to Congress Donna M. Christensen was a member of a Congressional Delegation that represented the United States at the Women Deliver Conference in London last weekend. Congresswoman Christensen joined Congresswoman Lois Capps, Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues in a bi-partisan CODEL at the Women Deliver Global Conference on Maternal Mortality. Others on the delegation include Congresswoman Hilda Solis of California, Congresswoman Gwen Moore of Wisconsin, Congresswoman Louise Slaughter of New York and Congresswoman Candice Miller of Michigan.

They joined 1500 world leaders including cabinet ministers, heads of the United Nations and other multilateral agencies, senior government officials, health professionals, researchers, economists and reproductive health advocates in a historic conference in an effort to reduce the 500,000 deaths that occur annually due to pregnancy and childbirth.

“As the first and only female physician in the Congress, a former Director of Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning in the Virgin Islands and chair of the CBC's Health Braintrust, I feel it is critical that the U.S. be a participant in this important conference,” Congresswoman Christensen said. “While the Virgin Islands has done well in reducing our maternal and infant mortality rates, African American women in the United States experience maternal mortality rates that are 4 times higher than white women and infant mortality rates that are 2 times higher,” she explained. In 2004 the Caribbean's infant mortality rate ranged from 10–12 per 1,000 live births and in regards to maternal mortality, Latin American and the Caribbean ratio is 87.1 per every 100,000 live births,” she added.

The Women Deliver Conference participants examined strategies to improve how health information and care are funded and provided as well as address other important issues for women including poverty reduction, women's human rights and economic development. Five plenary sessions and nearly 100 concurrent workshops at the

conference focused on five critical areas of investment in women and girls. They include:

- Improving women and newborn health
- Advancing human rights
- Expanding financial resources
- Building political will
- Promoting women in the world