Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 27, 2002

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request an opportunity to meet with you in the near future regarding United States' support for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

We were delighted last spring when you included $25 million in your budget for the U.N. Population Fund and when the Secretary of State made supportive statements about UNFPA's importance before Committees in the House and Senate. We were further encouraged when your administration acknowledged its support of UNFPA when the State Department, just three months ago, gave the organization $600,000 in supplemental funds to help the women of Afghanistan. Finally, we were extremely pleased when the House and Senate overwhelmingly adopted the Fiscal Year 2002 Foreign Operations Appropriations Conference Report, which contained $34 million for this important program. We understand now, however, that obligation of funds for this critically important program has been delayed.

We have each spent a great deal of time examining UNFPA's activities and programs and many of us have visited UNFPA projects in developing countries. We believe that these programs are not only important in the services that they make available to women which result in healthier pregnancies, fewer abortions, and a reduced incidence of HIV/AIDS, but because they provide many governments the training, capacity, and knowledge to implement high quality, voluntary family planning and maternal health programs they would not otherwise be able to implement.

We believe that any delay in providing the $34 million allocated by Congress for UNFPA will unnecessarily hurt women and children in some of the poorest nations. We request an opportunity to meet with you in the near future to share with you our understanding of UNFPA activities in developing nations and our views on the importance of strong continued U.S. support for the U.N. Population Fund.

Sincerely,

Carolyn B. Maloney

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

James Greenwood

JAMES GREENWOOD
Member of Congress

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