Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 15, 2002

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

We write on a matter of great urgency that affects the lives of women and children around the world. Many of us were heartened when you publicly expressed your commitment to family planning and then again when you submitted a FY02 budget request for $25,000,000 for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). We were also encouraged when Secretary Colin Powell submitted testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee expressing that "UNFPA does invaluable work" and then again when your Administration gave a voluntary contribution of $600,000 to UNFPA in supplemental funds to help the women of Afghanistan.

This is why we were extremely concerned to read in the June 29 *Washington Post* that your Administration is planning to invoke the prohibitive Kemp-Kasten amendment and withhold the $34 million appropriated by Congress for the UNFPA. Clearly, for the past 18 months, your Administration believed that the UNFPA was performing a vital service around the world and did not think the organization was in violation of Kemp-Kasten. We fear that this decision is being made based not on the facts, or on what is in the best interests of the lives of women, but rather on political calculations.

Moreover, we are particularly concerned that the delegation that was sent to the People's Republic of China to review and examine the role of the UNFPA has completed its report and has submitted it to you in final form, but that your Administration has refused to release it for Congressional review. While we have not had a chance to review the findings of the report, according to the *Post* article:

> "The White House Domestic Policy Council drafted a memo to the president based on the delegation's findings [which stated that]... the team found the U.N. agency had no direct knowledge or involvement in China's coercive policies..."

Based on this memo prepared by your own Administration, it appears that there are no grounds for invoking Kemp-Kasten and that it would be unconscionable to do so as the lives of millions of women and children depend on the U.S. voluntary contribution to the UNFPA.

The United Nations Population Fund has reported that "the loss of U.S. funding will also have a significant impact on U.N. Population Fund-supported work. In Kenya, for example, the

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loss of U.S. funds will have a dramatic effect on two unique and successful programs that would have to be abandoned or cut back despite high demand and their use to the communities they serve. U.N. Population Fund has been working with the Catholic Church in Nakuru to provide peer counseling for adolescents, parents and priests to prevent teenage pregnancies and STIs, including HIV/AIDS....[in] **Haiti**: Support to a major health center devoted to HIV/AIDS prevention could be cut and adolescent peer education programs designed to reduce teenage pregnancy curtailed;[in] **Viet Nam**: Provision of HIV/AIDS test kits and equipment for safe blood transfusion could be delayed despite rising infection rates."

We urge you to examine the facts and ignore the pleas from anti-family planning groups that have made unsubstantiated claims about the work of the UNFPA in China. Moreover, before you make your decision, we request an opportunity to meet with you to share our understanding of UNFPA activities in developing nations. Finally, we ask for a copy of the 3-person delegation report. As you know, the lives of millions of women and children around the world depend on it.

Sincerely,

**CAROLYN B. MALONEY**
**Member of Congress**

**JAMES GREENWOOD**
**Member of Congress**

**NITA LOWEY**
**Member of Congress**

**CONNIE MORELLA**
**Member of Congress**

**JOSEPH CROWLEY**
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