

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

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

April 27, 2004

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing out of great concern about comments made by one of your top campaign advisors regarding a woman's right to choose. In a live interview on CNN, Karen Hughes made the following statement:

"I think after September 11th the American people are valuing life more and realizing that we need policies to value the dignity and worth of every life.

"And President Bush has worked to say, let's be reasonable, let's work to value life, let's try to reduce the number of abortions, let's increase adoptions.

"And I think those are the kind of policies that the American people can support, particularly at a time when we're facing an enemy, and really the fundamental difference between us and the terror network we fight is that we value every life. It's the founding conviction of our country, that we're endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights, the right to life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

"Unfortunately our enemies in the terror network, as we're seeing repeatedly in the headlines these days, don't value any life, not even the innocent and not even their own."  
(*CNN Late Edition*, April 25, 2004)

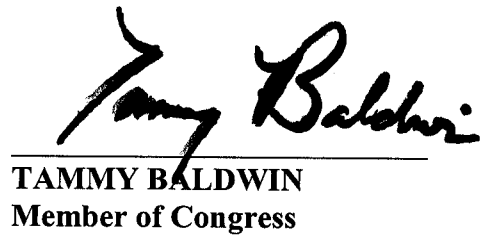
By claiming that those who "value life" want to reduce abortions, then going on to say that the difference between us and the terrorists is that "we value every life," Ms. Hughes's argument sounds a lot like an effort to equate those who are pro-choice with terrorists. This is a dangerous, ugly and slanderous argument that has no place in our nation's political discourse. To draw even a remote comparison between any law-abiding, patriotic American and the terrorists, whose goal is to wipe our country off the map, is not only insulting to law-abiding Americans, it shows particular disrespect to the victims of 9/11 and their families.

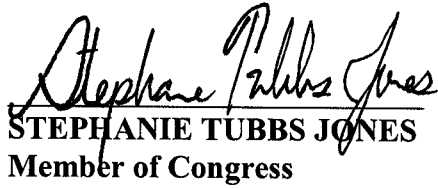
Mr. President, you came to office by promising to be "a uniter, not a divider." Your aide's comments have the potential to be extremely divisive by invoking the War on Terrorism. It is cheap and distasteful politics, and we ask you to take a stand against it.

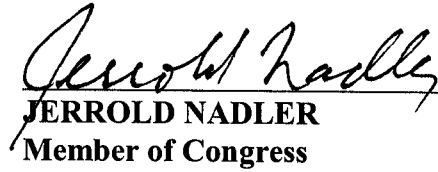
We urge you to have Ms. Hughes apologize for her comments. We urge you to clarify for the public that reproductive choice and terrorism are completely unrelated issues and that all Americans, regardless of their beliefs about a woman's right to choose, are united against the terrorists. This is important for the unity of our country and its political discourse. We know you will take proper action.

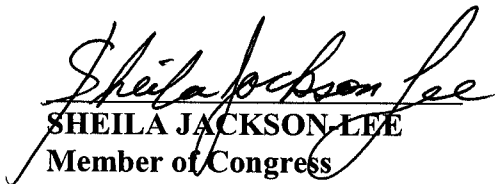
Sincerely,

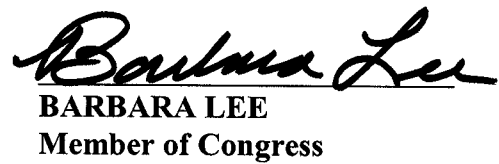
  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress

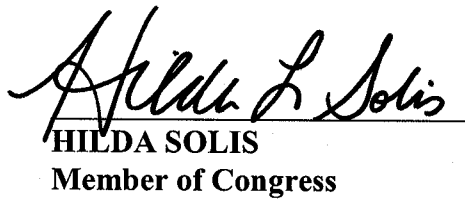
  
TAMMY BALDWIN  
Member of Congress

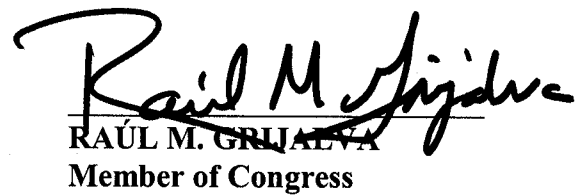
  
STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES  
Member of Congress

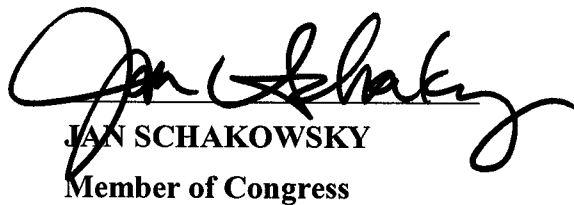
  
JERROLD NADLER  
Member of Congress

  
SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
Member of Congress

  
BARBARA LEE  
Member of Congress

  
HILDA SOLIS  
Member of Congress

  
RAÚL M. GRIJALVA  
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