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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE



# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3214

October 24, 2005

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

Dear President Bush:

We are compelled to write you, many of us for the third time, regarding your position on access to birth control. On July 12, 2005 and August 1, 2005, nineteen Members of Congress sent you two letters asking you to clarify your position on access to birth control. Unfortunately, we have not received a response.

Additionally, at a May 26, 2005 press briefing, Scott McClellan refused to “dignify” a reporter’s question about your stance on birth control with an answer. Again on July 18, 2005, McClellan was asked by the same reporter about your stance on birth control, and once more he would not provide a direct answer. Four times in four months, Members of Congress, the press, and the American people have been denied your position on access to birth control.

It is important that we know where you stand on access to birth control; 95% of American women use birth control at some point in their lives, but for the first time in decades access to birth control is in doubt:

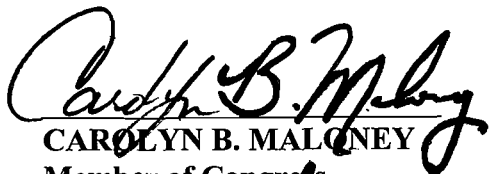
- Sen. Rick Santorum, a top Senate leader in your party, has proclaimed that birth control is “harmful to women and harmful to society;”
- Across the country, there is a growing movement of pharmacists refusing to fill women’s prescriptions for birth control pills;
- You appointed to the FDA's Reproductive Health Drugs Advisory Committee Dr. W. David Hager, a controversial doctor who reportedly refused to write birth-control prescriptions for unmarried women;
- Harriet Miers, your nominee to the Supreme Court, has not yet decided if access to birth control is protected by the Constitution, stating that she “is not ready to give an answer” on whether *Griswold v. Connecticut* is “settled law.”

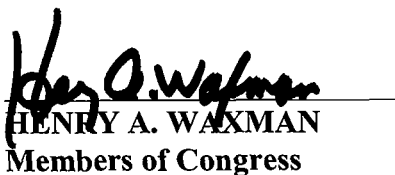
Because of all this, we have one simple: Mr. President, are you for or against birth control?

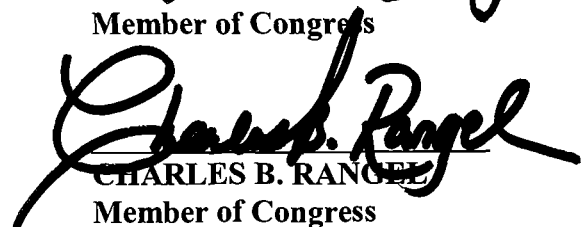
We will be watching for your answer. We will mark off the days on the calendar until you state your position on access to birth control. While we hope to hear from you soon, we intend to continue writing to you every month until you make your views on access to birth control clear.

Again, Mr. President, please set the record straight. Are you for or against birth control?

Sincerely,


  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress

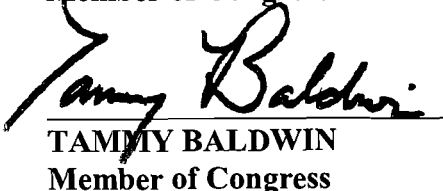
  
HENRY A. WAXMAN  
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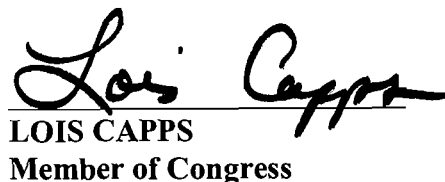
  
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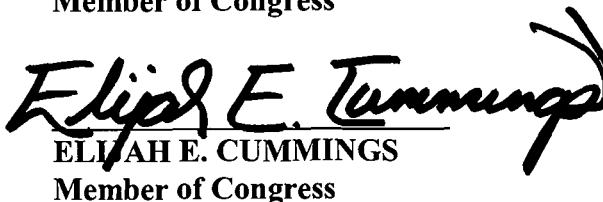
  
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Member of Congress

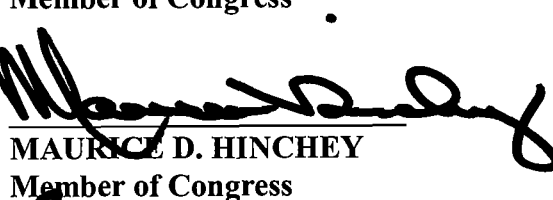
  
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Member of Congress

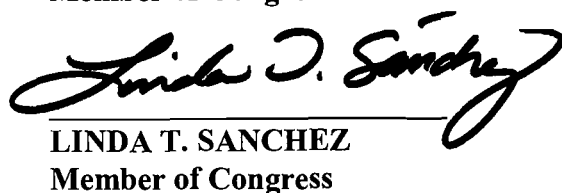
  
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Member of Congress

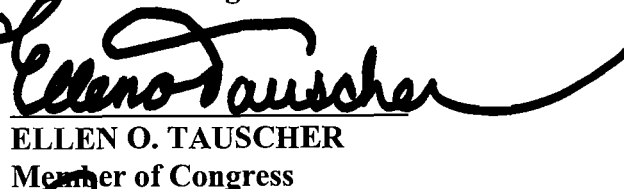
  
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Member of Congress

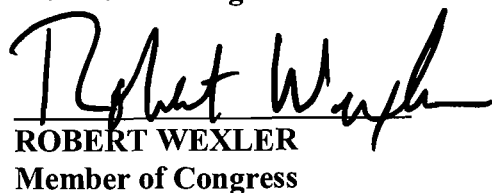
  
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LINDA T. SANCHEZ  
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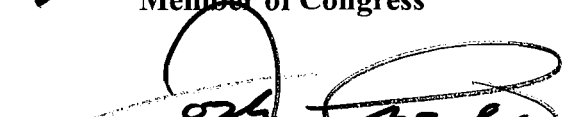
  
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Member of Congress


  
ROBERT WEXLER  
Member of Congress

  
JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.  
Member of Congress

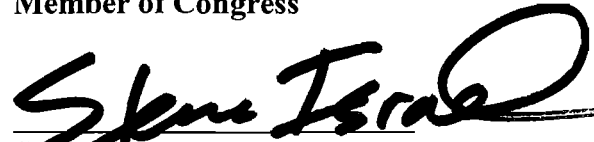
  
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JOSEPH CROWLEY  
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RAUL GRIJALVA  
Member of Congress

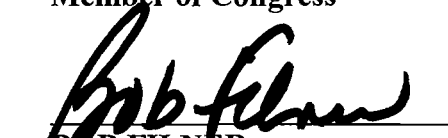
  
STEVE ISRAEL  
Member of Congress

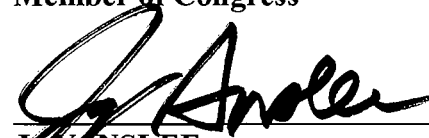
  
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DIANE E. WATSON  
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