

COALITION SUPPORTS DR. FOSTER

PRESS KIT

FEBRUARY 16, 1995

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ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING DR. HENRY FOSTER

Advocates for Youth
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Africare
Alpha Kappa Alpha
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Dental Schools
American College of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American for Democratic Action
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Medical Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Reproductive Choice
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Minority Health Professions
Schools
Association of Reproductive Medicine
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine
Black Health Association
Black Women's Network
B'nai B'rith Women
Catholics for Free Choice
Center for Black Aged
Center for Reproductive Law and Policy
Clara Bell Duvall Education Fund
Delta Sigma Theta
The Endocrine Society
Feminist Majority
Human Rights Campaign Fund
International Association of Black Fire Fighters
Medical Students for Choice
National Abortion Federation

National Abortion and Reproductive Rights
Action League
National Association for the Advancement of
Colored People
National Association for Equal Opportunities in
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National Family Planning and Reproductive
Health Association
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Medical Association
National Progressive Baptist Convention
National Organization for Women
National Organization for Women Legal Defense
and Education Fund
National Urban League
National Women's Law Center
People for the American Way
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Sexuality Information and Education Council of
the United States
Voters for Choice
Zero Population Growth
Zeta Phi Beta



News Release

CONTACT: Marjorie Tharp
800/336-5475
202/347-8600

FOR RELEASE: February 16, 1995

PEDIATRICIANS SUPPORT SURGEON GENERAL NOMINEE

Washington, D.C. -- The American Academy of Pediatrics, an organization of 49,000 pediatricians, supports the nomination of Henry J. Foster, Jr., M.D., as U.S. Surgeon General.

"Dr. Foster is a capable and caring physician," AAP President George Comerchi, M.D., said.

"As an advocate for children, he will bring hands-on experience in battling some of our most important health problems, like infant mortality and teen pregnancy.

"The Academy has long been concerned about the often forgotten adolescent population. Dr. Foster's preventive education programs, along with his enthusiasm, would be a tremendous asset to meeting their health care needs."

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The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 49,000 pediatricians dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 16, 1995

Contact: Robin Hatziyannis or
Michele Booth Cole
(202) 347-5700

ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH SUPPORTS DR. HENRY W. FOSTER
NOMINEE-DESIGNATE FOR U.S. SURGEON GENERAL

Advocates for Youth strongly and enthusiastically supports Henry W. Foster, M.D., as nominee-designate for the position of United States Surgeon General and commends President Clinton for his selection of Dr. Foster.

As a leading national organization dedicated exclusively to providing information, advocacy and education on issues of adolescent reproductive and sexual health, Advocates for Youth recognizes a champion for youth when it sees one -- and our nation's youth certainly would have such a champion in Dr. Foster as Surgeon General.

Dr. Foster brings with him nearly four decades of committed service as an obstetrician-gynecologist, extensive experience as a scholar-teacher and university administrator, and proven success in combatting the problems of teenage pregnancy and too-early childbearing through his "I Have a Future" program at Meharry Medical College. This remarkable combination of qualities makes him eminently qualified to serve as the nation's chief spokesperson on public health issues.

According to Advocates for Youth President, Margaret Pruitt Clark, Ph.D.,

The "I Have a Future" program demonstrates that Dr. Foster understands and cares deeply about adolescents. Specifically, "I Have a Future" addresses the complex interplay of problems involved in teenage pregnancy and childbearing, including low self-esteem, substance abuse, poor educational resources, lack of access to health care, lack of knowledge about reproductive health, lack of skills-building opportunities, and lack of economic opportunity. Dr. Foster's work to solve these problems at the community-level and to help young people become responsible, productive adults in a culturally-sensitive and comprehensive way serves as a model for the nation.

Advocates for Youth is pleased to join with a host of distinguished and diverse organizations today to lift our voices in a harmonious chorus of support for Dr. Foster. His compassion, his intellect, and his vision will serve ably the public health needs of our country and the demands of the office of Surgeon General. Dr. Henry W. Foster as Surgeon General is what America's youth need, and therefore he is what our entire nation needs.

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American Association
of Dental Schools

1625
Massachusetts
Avenue, NW
Washington, DC
20036-2212

202.667.9433

February 15, 1995

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The American Association of Dental Schools (AADS) writes in full support of the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster for Surgeon General. AADS represents all of the dental schools in the United States, as well as advanced education, hospital, and allied dental education institutions. It is within these institutions that future practitioners, educators, and researchers are trained; significant dental care provided; and the majority of dental research conducted. The AADS is the one national organization that speaks exclusively for dental education.

As a professor, department chair, dean of medicine and acting president of a major health sciences center comprised of schools of medicine, dentistry, allied health and graduate studies, Dr. Foster has learned the challenges faced today by the nation's health education institutions. These institutions not only train the health care workforce of tomorrow but also increasingly serve as a safety net providing treatment to populations that otherwise lack access to care.

The Surgeon General promotes good health activities for all Americans. Dr. Foster understands and supports the fact that oral health is essential to general health. As a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and its governing council, Dr. Foster has been involved in identifying pressing health care problems and fashioning solutions for their resolution. He supports the IOM's recently completed study, *Dental Education at the Crossroads: Challenges and Change*, which recognizes that, "Oral health is an integral part of total health, and oral health care is an integral part of comprehensive health care, including primary care." Dr. Foster's support for this and other IOM studies has prepared him to address a broad array of issues critically important to health education and the nation's health. His position as Surgeon General will allow him to skillfully advance the oral health objectives outlined in *Healthy People 2000*, thereby positively impacting the health status of all Americans.

Dr. Foster's knowledge, experience, and achievements in public health, as well as his personal integrity and commitment to service make him an ideal candidate for Surgeon General. The AADS strongly urges his confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Arthur A. Dugoni". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Arthur A. Dugoni, D.D.S., M.S.D.
President

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS

PRESS CONFERENCE: "MEDICAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT OF HENRY W. FOSTER, M.D.,
NOMINEE FOR SURGEON GENERAL"

NATIONAL PRESS CLUB -- WASHINGTON, D.C.

FEBRUARY 10, 1995 -- 9 A.M.

RALPH W. HALE, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.
ACOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), representing over 35,000 physicians specializing in women's health care, is here today to wholeheartedly and unequivocally support the nomination of Dr. Henry W. Foster as Surgeon General. And we are joined by other organizations representing thousands of doctors across this country.

We are here today to applaud Dr. Foster's accomplishments, not to apologize for them.

His career should be celebrated, not defended.

His knowledge should be shared with the nation, not silenced.

Dr. Henry Foster's career achievements are well-known. He has been on the faculty of Nashville's Meharry Medical College since 1973, where he has served as Dean of the School of Medicine and as Acting President, and as Vice President for Health Affairs. He is a Professor and past Chairman in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Meharry. He is currently on sabbatical as a health policy fellow at the Association of Academic Health Centers in Washington, D.C. He has served as Chief of Ob-Gyn at Larson Air Force Base. He has been President of the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics, an examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and he is a member of the prestigious Institute of Medicine.

Dr. Foster is a widely-known, popular, and respected member of the College, which represents over 90 percent of all the board-certified ob-gyns in this country. He has served with distinction on numerous College committees, dealing with issues ranging from education in family life to ambulatory care, maternal health, and resident education.

I personally know Hank Foster. Let me tell you what makes him special. He is the kind of compassionate, caring, and committed doctor that we all want as our personal physician, and that America will value as the nation's physician.

-- more --

Dr. Foster has chosen for his life's mission to work with people who need help the most, those who might not otherwise have access to health care. He is exceptionally qualified to take on the health challenges that face our nation -- from infant mortality, to sexually transmissible diseases, drug and alcohol abuse, violence in our cities' streets, and teen-age pregnancy.

Dr. Foster's widely-acclaimed "I Have a Future" program encourages young people to delay sexual activity and to develop job skills and self-esteem. Reducing teen-age pregnancy has been a stated goal of Congress and the President for some time now. It is a major public health issue. Who better to lead the nation's dialogue on this question than someone who has worked on this problem successfully on a day-to-day basis for many years?

Dr. Foster has dedicated his life to caring for women and their babies -- delivering over 10,000 of them -- and to promoting the health of their families.

In spite of Dr. Foster's illustrious record, there are some who would deny him a hearing before the nomination process has even begun. The key word here is "process," that is, a full-fledged discussion of his qualifications before the United States Senate.

A hearing does not mean one editorial, or a thirty-second sound bite. A hearing means a deliberative process before the duly-elected representatives of the American people.

What's right about this process is the choice of Dr. Foster for Surgeon General; what's wrong is how we set our public servants up to fail before they are allowed to speak for themselves.

There are some who would use the abortion issue as a litmus test for judging a doctor's capacity for public service. Those of us here today -- even with our differences in personal views -- do not share that belief. We represent different types of doctors, treating different types of patients, in a variety of settings -- from public health clinics and pediatric offices to emergency rooms. We judge Dr. Foster on the totality of his career.

Within our own specialty of ob-gyn, for example, about 13 percent of our members oppose abortion. Many of them have called me this week, to say that Dr. Foster is a fine man who deserves a fair hearing. One of them, Dr. James Youngblood of Kansas City, whose statement we hand out today, says clearly, "He should be the Surgeon General -- we need him!"

That is the point. We do need Dr. Henry Foster. His gift to this country is his life's work, and he will serve us well.

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EXCERPTS OF MEDICAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THE FOSTER NOMINATION

Press Conference with The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Feb. 10, 1995

"Dr. Foster's commitment to public health, his dedication to the challenges of teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, violence and infant mortality demonstrate his qualifications to be the health guardian of the American people."
American Medical Association

"American academic medicine knows Dr. Foster extremely well and has benefitted over many years and in many ways from his enormous talents. He richly deserves the reputation he has earned as a nationally renowned medical educator and clinician."
Association of American Medical Colleges

"He enjoys widespread respect among his peers, who to a person perceive him as a physician with the integrity, personal and professional characteristics that make him an exemplary candidate to be the chief doctor in the land for all the people."
Association of Academic Health Centers

"As an advocate for children, he will bring hands-on experience in battling some of our most important health problems, like infant mortality and teen pregnancy."
American Academy of Pediatrics

"The nomination of Henry W. Foster, M.D., an outstanding member of the Tennessee Medical Association, for the position of U.S. Surgeon General came as no surprise to physicians in Tennessee."
Tennessee Medical Association

"Private decisions made by physicians and their patients should not and cannot serve as political fodder for any viewpoint -- liberal or conservative.(...) Dr. Foster's nomination should be considered on his record as a distinguished physician and educator."
American College of Physicians

Other organizations supporting the Foster nomination: American College of Preventive Medicine, American Medical Women's Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Society for Reproductive Medicine, Association of Minority Health Professions Schools, Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine, Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Council of University Chairs of Obstetrics and Gynecology, National Medical Association.

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February 16, 1995

STATEMENT BY THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS ON THE NOMINATION OF DR. HENRY FOSTER FOR U.S. SURGEON GENERAL

The American College of Physicians expresses disappointment that the nomination process for Surgeon General has politicized the physician-patient relationship.

Private decisions made by physicians and their patients should not and cannot serve as political fodder for any viewpoint -- liberal or conservative. Medical decisions made in the context of the physician-patient relationship are personal, not political. The integrity and security of this relationship is critical to health maintenance and healing. Attempts to dredge up private medical encounters and hurl them into a political debate, as in the case of Dr. Foster's nomination, can only harm the sacred institution of physician-patient trust upon which medicine rests.

Dr. Foster's nomination should go forward, and Congress should consider it based on his record as a distinguished physician and educator.

- 30 -

Contact: Kathleen Haddad, MS, Department of Public Policy, (202) 393-1650.

American College of Preventive Medicine

PROVIDING
LEADERSHIP IN
DISEASE PREVENTION
AND HEALTH
PROMOTION

February 2, 1995

William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

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WASHINGTON, DC 20005
(202) 789-0003
FAX: (202) 289-8274

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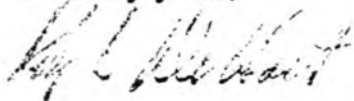
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ELLEN S. B. ALKON, MD
Region 8

Dear President Clinton:

The American College of Preventive Medicine is pleased to support the nomination of Henry Foster, MD, for the position of Surgeon General of the United States. Dr. Foster will bring to the position a record of leadership and an understanding of the medical training and health care delivery needs of this nation.

The American College of Preventive Medicine, the national professional society for physicians committed to disease prevention and health promotion, looks forward to working with Dr. Foster on common goals to improve the health of the public.

Sincerely yours,



Roy L. DeHart, MD
President



AFSCME®

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

1625 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-5687

Telephone (202) 429-1000

Telex 89-2376

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TDD (202) 659-0446

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STATEMENT
of
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
(AFSCME)
on the
NOMINATION OF DR. HENRY FOSTER
as
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) strongly supports the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster as Surgeon General of the United States.

Dr. Foster is a superbly qualified candidate who has long advocated responsible reproductive health policies that protect women's health, strengthen families and combat teenage pregnancy.

Dr. Foster is being condemned by anti-choice factions for performing a perfectly legal medical procedure in the context of providing women with the full range of health care services they need. This is the right wing's first attack in their campaign to demonize doctors who perform a legal medical service. Their campaign would return us to the time when abortion was illegal and unsafe.

AFSCME urges the Senate to consider Dr. Foster's entire lifetime of extraordinary work. The United States Senate should not allow the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster to become a litmus test for the radical right.

AFSCME urges the Senate to confirm the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster as Surgeon General of the United States.

February 15, 1995

in the public service



1400 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: 202.682.6000
Fax: 202.682.6114

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February 15, 1995

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

The American Psychiatric Association supports your selection of Henry Foster, M.D. as nominee to be Surgeon General of the United States. Dr. Foster's long and distinguished medical career and his dedication to matters of public health make him an excellent selection for this position.

Sincerely,

Melvin Sabshin, M.D.
Medical Director





AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

February 14, 1995

Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton,

We are writing on behalf of the American Psychological Association to express our strong support for Henry Foster, Jr., M.D. for Surgeon General.

Dr. Foster's accomplishments are numerous. He is widely recognized as one of our nation's authorities on preventing adolescent pregnancy and reducing infant mortality. His highly successful pregnancy prevention program, the "I Have a Future Program", encourages adolescents to abstain from sexual activity and guides those adolescents who are at-risk for pregnancy toward positive life choices through the use of community-based partnerships and interventions. In addition, Dr. Foster has served as an examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, has lectured extensively at conferences and seminars worldwide, has served on the editorial board of Academia, and has served on many boards, committees, and councils where he has proven his ability as a consensus builder.

Moreover, Dr. Foster has often been recognized by the medical community for his contributions to medicine and to science. Such recognitions include induction into the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences; the Faculty Award for Excellence in Science and Technology from the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and the Appreciation Award for Research and Teaching in Sickle Cell Anemia from Tuskegee University.

Dr. Foster is also a practicing physician and medical educator, currently serving as scholar-in-residence at the Association of Academic Health Centers in Washington, D.C. (Dr. Foster's most recent honor) while on sabbatical from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. At Meharry, he has served as the dean of the school of medicine and also as acting president.

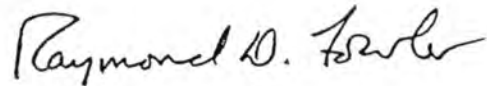
Dr. Foster will bring to the Office of the Surgeon General not only a wealth of knowledge and experience, but also a strong commitment to improving the health of all Americans, particularly infants, children, and adolescents. His colleagues have indicated they expect Dr. Foster to be a vocal advocate for promoting health and preventing disease.

Dr. Foster's distinguished record demonstrates that he would be an exceptional Surgeon General, committed to improving the physical and mental health of all Americans. On behalf of the 124,000 members of the American Psychological Association, we strongly encourage you to support his nomination.

Sincerely,



Ronald E. Fox, Ph.D.
President



Raymond D. Fowler, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer



AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

Formerly The American Fertility Society

1209 MONTGOMERY HIGHWAY • BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35216-2809

TEL 205/978-5000 • FAX 205/978-5005

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CONTACT: Jane S. Tierney
202/863-2439

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STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR HENRY W. FOSTER, M.D. FOR U.S. SURGEON GENERAL

Robert D. Visscher, M.D., Executive Director of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), formerly The American Fertility Society, released the following statement in support of President Clinton's nomination of Henry W. Foster, Jr., M.D., for U.S. Surgeon General:

We fully endorse President Clinton's choice for Surgeon General as he is an accomplished physician who has made great strides in the field of reproductive medicine and in developing community service programs. Dr. Foster will bring the highest level of talent, knowledge and leadership to the position of Surgeon General. He has won national recognition and awards for his campaigns to reduce infant mortality and to curb teenage pregnancies and drug abuse. In 1991, his program to combat teen pregnancy was chosen as one of President Bush's "Thousand Points of Light." He created the "I Have a Future" program which encourages young people to practice abstinence, develop job skills and improve self-esteem. ASRM enthusiastically supports the candidacy of Dr. Henry W. Foster, Jr. as the next United States Surgeon General.

The American Society for Reproductive Medicine, founded in 1944, has more than 11,000 members who are devoted to advancing knowledge and expertise in reproductive medicine and biology, including obstetrician-gynecologists, urologists, research scientists, medical technologists and allied health professionals. ASRM-affiliate societies include the Society of Reproductive Endocrinologists (SRE), the Society of Reproductive Surgeons (SRS), and the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART).

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ATPM

ASSOCIATION OF
TEACHERS OF
PREVENTIVE
MEDICINE

February 13, 1995

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

The Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine is pleased to support the nomination of Henry W. Foster, Jr., MD for United States Surgeon General. Dr. Foster has a record of outstanding accomplishment and leadership in public health and medical education. His confirmation will help ensure that improving the health status of Americans through disease prevention and health promotion remains a national priority.

The Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine is a professional organization comprising medical school departments of preventive medicine, teachers, researchers, administrators and students. Our mission is to ensure the primacy and excellence of individual and community health promotion and disease prevention in the education of physicians and other health professionals.

We thank you for your continuing leadership in health care issues and for your consistent recognition that prevention should be a focal point of federal activities in health.

Sincerely,

S. Edwards Dismuke, MD, MSPH
President

Barbara J. Calkins, MA
Executive Director

The Center for Reproductive Law & Policy

120 Wall Street
New York, New York 10005 USA
212-514-5534 • 212-514-5538 fax

February 14, 1995

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are deeply disturbed by recent reports that the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster to be the next Surgeon General of the United States is in jeopardy because he has performed a number of abortions in his medical practice.

In this nation, women have a guaranteed constitutional right to make and implement informed choices about childbearing. Abortion is a necessary component of women's health care. Abortion is, in fact, medically indicated in a wide variety of circumstances, and the procedure itself is significantly safer for the woman than a full term pregnancy and delivery. The point at which the medical risks of pregnancy become unacceptable will differ depending on the circumstances and the individual woman. Ethical standards -- and U.S. law -- require that women be allowed to weigh these risks for themselves. While individual physicians, who, for reasons of conscience or religious belief, may decline to perform or assist in the procedure, it is irresponsible and unethical for physicians to withhold or deny abortion services to women who need them.

Since 1973, millions of women in this country have undergone abortions, and millions more have benefited from the option to make a personal choice. That physicians who attend to their medical needs should be made targets for discrimination, intimidation, hatred, and even murder is an outrage.

Because of the urgent need to address issues of importance to women's health, it is particularly praiseworthy that you have appointed a distinguished obstetrician/gynecologist to the position of Surgeon General. We urge you to resist those who would fan the flames of hysteria and vilify Dr. Foster for fulfilling his medical

Janet Benshoof
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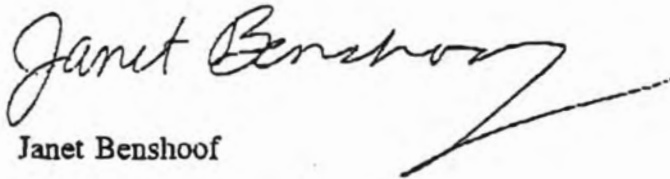
|| Member: Calif. bar only

¶ Member: N.Y. and Mass. bars

page 2
February 14, 1995

obligation to this patients. For him to do less would violate the standards of medical practice. We hope that Senators will consider this nomination solely on the basis of Dr. Foster's qualifications and experience. If they do so, we are confident they will vote to confirm him as the next Surgeon General of the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Janet Benshoof". The signature is fluid and extends to the right with a long, sweeping underline.

Janet Benshoof



CONTACT: Carol Petraitis 215-629-0111
610-544-0138 (home)

February 16, 1995
National Press Club

In 1929 Clara Bell Duvall a 34-year-old mother of five found herself pregnant for the eighth time. In a desperate attempt to end the pregnancy she performed an abortion with a knitting needle. Tragically, she developed peritonitis and died.

Left behind were five motherless children and a husband unable to care for a large family while working to support them. The children were scattered among various family members. Along with their mother, a family died.

So, when anti-choice forces work to subvert the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster as U.S. Surgeon General because they abhor the abortions he has performed, I wish they would think about Clara Bell Duvall and her five motherless children. What I abhor is the tragedy that befell the Duvall family.

As one of Clara Bell Duvall's daughters, Linn Duvall Harwell said, "When abortion was illegal, women died. My mother was one of them." When she learned the cause of her mother's death, Linn Harwell vowed to change the root causes of her mother's desperate act--the lack of birth control and unsafe, illegal abortion. Now 71 years old and the mother of four, Linn Duvall Harwell, like Dr. Henry Foster, has worked tirelessly to improve women's lives.

Access to birth control and safe, legal abortion save women's lives. Dr. Henry Foster has saved women's lives and kept families together.

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: Catherine Bryan
301-941-0252**

ENDOCRINE SOCIETY ANNOUNCES SUPPORT OF FOSTER NOMINATION

Bethesda, MD February 16, 1995 . . . The Endocrine Society today announces its support for the nomination of Henry W. Foster, Jr., M.D. for Surgeon General of the United States. The Society believes that Dr. Foster is well qualified and will bring dedication, expertise and leadership to the position.

"Dr. Foster is a well respected member of the medical community. As a clinician, a scientist, an educator and administrator, his reputation is sterling. The programs he has organized in Nashville to prevent unplanned teenage pregnancies are among the best in the country," said M. Susan Smith, Ph.D., president of The Endocrine Society and director of the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center.

"We recognize excellent leadership in the areas of medicine that relate to endocrinology as well as dedication to public health. Dr. Foster, an obstetrician/gynecologist, deserves our full support for his nomination," commented C. Wayne Bardin, M.D. past president of the Society and vice president of The Population Council.

Based in Bethesda, MD, The Endocrine Society is comprised of nearly 8,000 scientists and physicians in 65 countries dedicated to the research and treatment of the endocrine system.

#



MSFC

MEDICAL STUDENTS FOR CHOICE

February 16, 1995
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Patricia Anderson
202-667-7281

MEDICAL STUDENTS FOR CHOICE RALLIES BEHIND DR. FOSTER'S NOMINATION FOR SURGEON GENERAL

Medical Students for Choice (MSFC), the organization of pro-choice medical students, urged the President's continued support of Henry Foster, MD, for Surgeon General today. "It is crucial that Dr. Foster be commended and not condemned for his work as a physician. His example is inspiring to medical students - he has led by caring for the needs of his patients - women and their families," said Jody Steinauer, President of Medical Students for Choice.

Medical students were outraged when controversy arose surrounding Dr. Foster's provision of legal abortions. "His practice teaches the importance of providing health services according to the needs of patients and not the dictates of political beliefs," said Steinauer. "MSFC applauds the nomination of a Surgeon General who recognizes the importance of women's access to abortion."

The medical community, along with MSFC, has overwhelming confidence in Dr. Foster. "We cannot allow anti-abortion extremists to redefine Dr. Foster according to their own narrow agenda," said Steinauer. "Dr. Foster's record speaks for itself. His career exemplifies commitment to our nation's health, from preventing teen pregnancy to providing total reproductive health care."

MSFC represents hundreds of medical students nation-wide dedicated to the reproductive well being of our nation. MSFC was founded in 1993 to advocate for a more complete medical education, one that includes abortion training, to be better prepared to serve the real needs of our communities in the future.



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 16, 1995

CONTACT: GINA SHAW
202/667-5881

ABORTION PROVIDERS SUPPORT FOSTER NOMINATION; JOIN PUBLIC FORUM AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

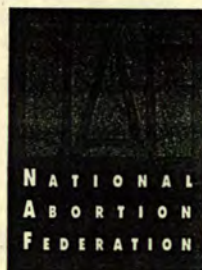
The National Abortion Federation, the national professional association of abortion providers, today reaffirmed its support for Dr. Henry Foster, President Clinton's nominee for Surgeon General of the United States, joining the President and Dr. Foster at a public forum. "Dr. Foster's record speaks for itself," said Donna Singletary, NAF's Government Relations Director. "He has devoted his life to the service of the public health, most particularly reproductive health services."

NAF is reassured by the pro-active stance taken by the White House and Dr. Foster in recent days to counter the misrepresentation and public attacks mounted by the extreme right wing. "It is important that the public know that this Surgeon General nominee supports and respects both the women who seek abortion services and his colleagues who provide those services," said Singletary. "We were initially concerned that the invective of an extremist minority was being allowed to shape the discussion. Abortion is one of the most commonly performed surgical procedures in this country. When you attack abortion care, you attack the women of America."

--More--

The providers NAF represents are outraged at the witch hunt being pursued by extreme right-wing groups against Dr. Foster for providing abortion services. "Fanatics, out of touch with the needs and beliefs of most Americans, have tried to back President Clinton and Dr. Foster into a corner," said Singletary. "We urge Dr. Foster and the President to continue to stand firm in their support of a women's right to complete reproductive health care. It should not matter how many abortions any physician has performed, for what reasons, or in what setting. Dr. Henry Foster should be applauded, not attacked, for providing abortion services to women who need them."

The National Abortion Federation has tracked the growing incidence of anti-choice violence across the United States since 1977. The marginalization of abortion providers has played a key role in the growth of this violence, according to NAF. "In the attacks on Dr. Foster, we see the same kind of demonization that we see at clinics across the country every day," Singletary noted. "This principled physician must not and will not permit himself to be forced to apologize for providing a vital public health service."



February 14, 1995

The Honorable Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 2050

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of over 300 institutional members of the National Abortion Federation (NAF), we urge your continuing support for Henry Foster, MD for Surgeon General.

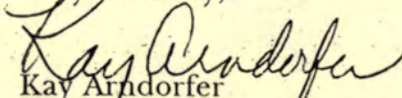
As the professional membership association of abortion providers, our organization speaks for hundreds of caring medical personnel -- many of whom have to don bullet-proof vests when they go to work and many of whom find no safe refuge from harassment even in their homes with their families. NAF supports the nomination of a Surgeon General who acknowledges the importance of women's access to and the availability of abortion care.

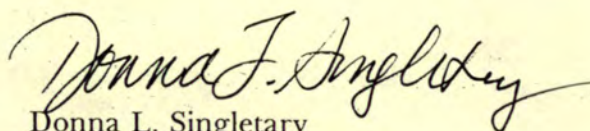
Dr. Foster's career exemplifies this thorough commitment to women's health, from preventing teen pregnancy to rendering a full range of reproductive care. However, Dr. Foster's achievements throughout his career are being overlooked. Anti-abortion militants are attempting to defeat this nomination merely because he performed legal abortion procedures as a part of his practice. Without your leadership and the positive action of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, a good nominee may well be sacrificed in this latest anti-abortion battle.

Blind hostility from anti-choice forces to any nominee who performed an abortion is unfair to Dr. Foster's nomination and is indicative of what abortion providers face every day. Our members do not apologize for 12, 1200, or 12,000 procedures, because our physicians know they make a positive difference in women's lives. Quite simply, the ability to obtain a safe, legal abortion helps women and their families. Abortion is a positive recourse in what can be a difficult situation.

Dr. Foster's prescription to make abortion "safe, legal and rare" represents a growing consensus for a strong educational effort stressing sexual responsibility and delaying parenthood. It is a banner under which all who care about women's and children's health care can rally. We stand with you against the unfair smear tactics which threaten this nomination.

Very sincerely,


Kay Arndorfer
Acting Executive Director


Donna L. Singletary
Director, Government Relations

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WASHINGTON BUREAU
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1025 VERMONT AVENUE, N.W. • SUITE 1120 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005
(202) 638-2269 FAX (202) 638-5936

PRESS RELEASE

February 9, 1995

Contact: Wade Henderson, Director
(202) 638-2269
or

Edward A. Hailes, Counsel
(202) 638-2269

NAACP ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF DR. HENRY FOSTER AS UNITED STATES SURGEON GENERAL

The NAACP today announced its strong support for the confirmation of Dr. Henry W. Foster, Jr., President Clinton's choice to serve as the United States Surgeon General. Dr. Foster is the acting president of Meharry Medical College. He has a distinguished career in medicine accentuated by significant scholarly achievements and outstanding community service.

Dr. Foster has already earned a national reputation and has gained widespread respect within the medical profession for the remarkable leadership he has demonstrated on issues of importance to the African American community, including his work in such areas as teenage pregnancy prevention programs.

"The NAACP believes the nation needs Dr. Foster as its Surgeon General. His medical experience and willingness to confront some of the most distressing health problems of our time make him especially well-suited for the job," said Dr. William F. Gibson, Chairman, National Board of Directors.

The NAACP has launched a "grassroots" campaign urging Members of the United States Senate to honestly evaluate and swiftly confirm Dr. Foster as the nation's Surgeon General.



National Association For Equal Opportunity In Higher Education
NAFEO • Black Higher Education Center • Lovejoy Building • 400 12th Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002 • Telephone (202) 543-9111 • Fax No. (202) 543-9113

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Vice President, NAFEO
Washington, DC

February 1, 1995

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

On behalf of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), the membership association of 117 historically and predominantly Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), we are pleased to know that Dr. Henry W. Foster, Jr. has been recommended to become the Surgeon General of the United States of America.

I have known Dr. Foster for many years and have long been impressed by his commitment to the health and well-being of all Americans. He has served in a variety of administrative and professional capacities in the Higher Education community including that of Acting President of Meharry Medical College. In addition, his involvement with several organizations and foundations attests to his being able to keep abreast of issues in the medical areas. These accomplishments should serve him well in his new role as Surgeon General.

On behalf of NAFEO, we wholeheartedly endorse and support the appointment of Dr. Henry W. Foster, Jr. as Surgeon General of the United States.

Cordially,

Samuel L. Myers
President

20th National Conference on Blacks in Higher Education
"Equalizing Opportunities"
March 15-19, 1995
Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C.



National Association of Social Workers

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Carolyn I. Polowy, JD

February 15, 1995

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 155,000 members of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), I urge you to support the nomination of Dr. Henry W. Foster as Surgeon General of the United States.

NASW is well aware of our nation's need to address such pressing issues as infant mortality, teenage pregnancy, HIV infection, and alcohol and other drug dependencies. Social workers are on the front lines of health and human service delivery and know the importance of health promotion, education, and behavioral change in confronting the root causes of the many public health challenges that we face today and in the future.

As "doctor to the nation," the Surgeon General has a unique opportunity to bring increased visibility to these critical issues. Dr. Foster has demonstrated his commitment to prevention in these very areas throughout his career as a gynecologist and medical educator and is well qualified to assume this role.

NASW believes that the consideration of Dr. Foster's nomination for Surgeon General should remain focused on his demonstrated competence, credentials, and pursuit of sound public health policy. We look forward to your leadership to insure that the framework and scope of the debate on the nomination of Dr. Foster remains focused on the position of Surgeon General, rather than a political challenge to reproductive rights in the United States.

Sincerely,

Sheldon R. Goldstein, ACSW, LISW
Executive Director

NATIONAL BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC.

N

February 15, 1995

B

Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

C

C

re: Surgeon General Nomination

Dear Mr. President:

FOUNDED
FROM A
VISION IN
1993

PROVIDING:

On behalf of our 89 affiliate chapters and over 10,000 Black owned businesses the National Black Chamber of Commerce, Inc. lends total support to your nomination of Dr. Henry Foster, Jr. as Surgeon General.

PROGRAMMING

ADVOCACY

MONITORING

The NBCC is a nonpartisan organization which gives public support of individuals on a very rare basis. In light of the attempted character assassinations directed to an individual holding the excellent credentials of Dr. Foster we feel that our opinion must be added to the public record. Dr. Foster has had an impeccable career filled with compassion and commitment to the improvement of the human race.

COMPLIANCE

LEADERSHIP

TECHNICAL
SUPPORT

INFO SHARING

RESEARCH &
DEVELOPMENT

There is much similarity in the agenda of Dr. Foster and the NBCC. We both feel that the best approach to improving the environment is by dealing "face to face" with those affected by it. His past initiatives in public housing units and with at risk teenagers are indications that his vision is progressive and on target.

Improved public health care is the goal of Dr. Foster. All Americans can certainly agree with that agenda and should support such a nominee. The credentials, respect of the health care community and current programs engineered by Dr. Foster speak for themselves. Dr. Foster is qualified, bona fide, worthy and deserving of the post of Surgeon General.

SOURCING

Your resolve to continue your support of Dr. Foster is well appreciated. We look forward to his congressional approval and future accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Harry C. Alford

HARRY C. ALFORD
Chairman & CEO



NATIONAL BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH PROJECT

Public Education/Policy Office • 1211 Connecticut Avenue N.W. • Suite 310 • Washington, D.C. 20036
Phone 202/835-0117 Fax 202/833-8790

February 8, 1995

The Honorable William Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

The National Black Women's Health Project (NBWHP), a self-help and advocacy organization committed to improving the overall health status of Black women, would like to state our unequivocal support of your decision to nominate Dr. Henry W. Foster, Jr., as U.S. Surgeon General.

NBWHP praised your decision to name Dr. Joycelyn Elders as Surgeon General because of her work in Arkansas against teen pregnancy, AIDS and ensuring access to family planning services for the poor. Dr. Foster's commitment to reproductive choice, and his work on teen pregnancy prevention equal Dr. Elder's uncompromising dedication. We believe that Dr. Foster is an excellent choice for Surgeon General.

Dr. Elders' treatment at the hands of media and conservatives during her confirmation hearing and throughout her tenure as Surgeon General was grossly unfair and unjustified. Conservatives, led by the anti-choice movement, have waged a similar attack against Dr. Foster.

As an obstetrician-gynecologist, Dr. Foster has delivered hundreds of children and performed a number of legal abortions. Dr. Foster provided abortion services to women who chose to have abortions. These services were performed in accordance with the law and with the consent of his patients. With the declining number of physicians who are willing to perform legal abortions, we think that Dr. Foster should be praised for performing abortions and availing women the option to have this legal choice.

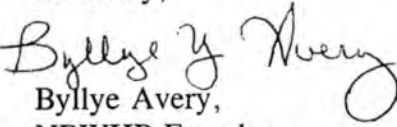
This assault on the pro-choice movement and particularly pro-choice physicians cannot be tolerated by your Administration. As a pro-choice President, we are certain that you will not waiver on your decision to nominate Dr. Foster as Surgeon General.

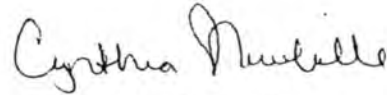
We would ask that you publicly reaffirm your commitment to Dr. Foster and to the pro-choice movement by denouncing any attempts to block his nomination as Surgeon General. While

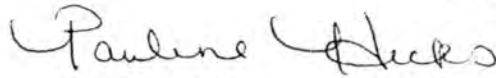
Dr. Foster may not receive an easy confirmation, we would urge that you continue to support him.

NBWHF is a pro-choice organization with membership in 42 states. We have requested that our members contact you to also demonstrate their support for Dr. Foster.

Sincerely,


Byllye Avery,
NBWHF Founder


Cynthia I. Newbille,
Executive Director


Pauline Hicks
NBWHF Board Chair

cc: Dr. Henry Foster, Jr.

National Black Nurses' Association, Inc.



1511 K Street N.W.
Suite 415
Washington, D.C. 20005
Phone: 202-393-6870
Fax: 202-347-3808

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Executive Director
Washington, D.C.

February 15, 1995

Dear Colleague:

The National Black Nurses' Association, Inc. is pleased to enthusiastically endorse the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster as the Nation's next Surgeon General.

NBNA fully recognizes the unique qualifications of Dr. Foster as a physician and a learned, competent individual who has devoted his life to the health and well-being of a variety of communities and age groups.

NBNA particularly supports this distinguished nominee because of his professional and personal focus on health promotion and disease prevention. We commend President Clinton on this important nomination and pledge our full support.

Sincerely,


Linda Burnes Bolton, Dr. PH, RN, FAAN
President



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, INC.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:

1001 G STREET, N.W., SUITE 800, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

TELEPHONE: (202) 628-0015

FAX: (202) 628-0233

February 15, 1995

The Honorable William Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

The National Council of Negro Women, Inc. wholeheartedly supports the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster for Surgeon General of the United States.

The National Council of Negro Women is a community based national organization comprised of 34 affiliated national membership organizations and 260 community based sections with an outreach to 4 million women in all walks of life. Since its founding in 1935 by Mary McLeod Bethune, NCNW has been a major positive force working to improve the quality of life for women and their families. We know first hand the value of the professional contribution Dr. Foster has made to the national community and in the lives of families.

Dr. Foster has had a distinguished career as a physician. He is an effective advocate for maternal and child health. His life's work has been devoted not only to the practice of medicine, but he has been a crusader in the fight to reduce teen pregnancy and to improve the quality of life among at risk youth. The "I Have A Future Program" is the direct result of his belief that young people can be inspired to stop dangerous and destructive behavior. Dr. Foster has given hundreds of children a dream of hope and unlimited achievement. He is indeed a professional with a concern to serve the public interest.

Dr. Foster's wide ranging experiences as a practicing physician, scholar, academic administrator and community activist, make him eminently qualified to serve as Surgeon General of the United States. We trust that Dr. Foster will have the opportunity to speak for himself and will be confirmed on the merits of his experience, vision, ability and commitment.

Sincerely,

Dorothy I. Height
President & CEO

NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ASSOCIATION

February 14, 1995

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

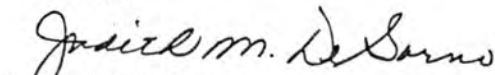
Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association, (NFPRHA), representing more than 4,000 publicly funded family planning clinics serving more than four million women and adolescents annually, I write to express our sincere hope and strong belief that Henry Foster, M.D. should be confirmed as Surgeon General of the United States.

First and foremost, Dr. Foster has an impressive record as a practitioner, an administrator, an academician, and has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to public health. During his 38 years of practice, Dr. Foster has delivered thousands of babies and taught more than 1,000 medical students. But the sum total of his life's work goes far beyond these numbers. He has confronted America's "crisis of values" by founding the "I Have A Future" Program, a program which recognizes that teen pregnancy is far more than just a medical issue. The program allows teens to develop a sense of personal responsibility by offering adolescents a range of learning experiences from academics to athletics and is designed to cultivate the self-esteem needed to delay childbearing. Although information on contraception is provided, there is an explicit recognition that this is only one component of an effective response. The "I Have A Future" program stands out as the kind of creative, locally-based approach to preventing unintended pregnancy that we should applaud.

At a time when teen pregnancy has moved to the top of the Administration's agenda as well as the legislative agenda in Congress, it is critical that the nation's Surgeon General be an effective and knowledgeable spokesperson on this topic. The nation needs Dr. Foster's skills as a community leader, a consensus builder, and a spokesperson for the public's health. We cannot afford to let extremists, who would bar any pro-choice candidate from office, claim to speak for America and to represent our values. Now is the time to make clear that mainstream America supports both family planning and reproductive choice and, along with Dr. Foster, wants to keep abortion safe, legal and rare.

Sincerely,



Judith M. DeSarno
President and CEO

The National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA) is a non-profit membership organization established to improve and expand the delivery of voluntary, comprehensive, culturally sensitive family planning and reproductive health care services throughout the United States. As the only national organization representing the entire family planning community, NFPRHA's members include 90% of the health care providers funded by the federal Title X program including: state-county-local health departments; hospital based clinics; Planned Parenthood of America affiliates; family planning councils; independent freestanding clinics; and individual providers, researchers and consumers. NFPRHA members provide reproductive health care at over four thousand clinics nationwide to four million low income and poor women and adolescents yearly.

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25 Years Defining and Defending Women's Rights

February 15, 1995

99 HUDSON STREET

NEW YORK, NY 10013-2871

(212) 925-6635

FAX (212) 226-1066

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20050

Dear President Clinton:

We write to express the strong support of the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund for Dr. Henry Foster to be Surgeon General of the United States.

Dr. Foster is eminently qualified as a physician. His experience in working with teenagers to build their self-esteem and to give them the confidence to make responsible choices regarding their own futures, their families and their communities, will be invaluable in addressing important social issues.

Dr. Foster's pro-choice position is consistent with the views of the majority of Americans, including Americans of virtually every religious and political persuasion. NOW LDEF strongly endorses his stand for reproductive freedom. It is imperative that we do not allow a minority of extremists to derail the confirmation process. If they do, it will reinforce the message that every doctor's right to provide a legal medical procedure is in peril. Further, it will serve to erode a woman's right to choose, which we know you strongly support.

We urge you to continue your support for Dr. Foster and to press strongly for his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Kathryn J. Rodgers
Kathryn J. Rodgers
Executive Director



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 10, 1995

CONTACT: Linda Cooper
(202) 328-5176/5160

STATEMENT OF MARCIA GREENBERGER
CO-PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S LAW CENTER
ON THE NOMINATION OF DR. HENRY FOSTER AS SURGEON GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D.C., -- "We are outraged that some would condemn Dr. Foster and consider him unacceptable for public service as our nation's Surgeon General solely on grounds that he is an OB/Gyn whose long and distinguished career has included the performance of abortions.

This effort to discredit Dr. Foster is nothing more than another guerilla tactic in the litany of intimidation, coercion, and violence being used by extremists to isolate and stigmatize abortion services. Abortion is a legal procedure, and a standard part of OB/Gyn practice. In the past, and during Dr. Foster's years of practice when abortion services were more accessible than they are today, the procedure was considered a responsibility and obligation of OB/Gyn's to their patients, with deference to the provider's religious or moral beliefs. Efforts to further marginalize the availability of abortion services will make women and the limited number of health care providers who currently perform abortion services even more vulnerable to the brutal, senseless, and escalating acts of violence witnessed at clinics in Massachusetts and Florida, and across the country.

OB/Gyn care is fundamental to women's health and healthy babies. In nominating an OB/Gyn to be Surgeon General the Administration clearly recognizes that the health of women and their families is a critically important public health issue, central to the well being of future generations. Dr. Foster's dedication to the health care needs of at-risk communities and issues such as reducing teen pregnancy place him on the front lines of some of the most critical health care concerns we as nation face today.

Dr. Foster's long career reflects a full range of expertise as an academic, health care provider, advocate, and counselor. He brings a unique perspective to the role of the Surgeon General through his commitment in his medical practice to ensuring the health and wellness of countless women and their babies."

#

The National Women's Law Center is a non-profit organization that has been working since 1972 to advance and protect women's legal rights. The Center focuses on major policy areas of importance to women and their families including employment, education, reproductive rights and health, family support and income security, with special attention given to the concerns of low-income women.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

1616 P Street, NW • Suite 100 • Washington, DC 20036 • (202) 328-5160 • FAX (202) 328-5137

ADA

Americans for Democratic Action, Inc.

1625 K Street, N.W. • Suite 210 • Washington, DC 20006 • (202) 785-5980 • FAX (202) 785-5969

For Immediate Release:
February 16, 1995

For Further Information Contact:
Amy Isaacs, (202) 785-5980

**AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION SUPPORTS THE NOMINATION OF
DR. HENRY FOSTER FOR SURGEON GENERAL**

Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) today reiterated its support for Dr. Henry Foster to become Surgeon General of the United States.

"President Clinton's nomination of Dr. Henry Foster, a practicing gynecologist and educator, is a superb choice to fill the position of U.S. Surgeon General," said Amy Isaacs, ADA's National Director. "In that capacity, Dr. Foster will be able to continue and expand his work of advocating positive life choices for teenagers. His significant contributions to the welfare of youths from disadvantaged backgrounds to prevent teenage pregnancy, reduce infant mortality, and reduce substance abuse are truly noteworthy." Foster's "I Have a Future Program" which was lauded by President George Bush, stands as a shining example of precisely the type of positive alternative all of us need to encourage. The program encourages community-based partnerships and helps young people help each other through the difficulties of the teen years.

"Anti-choice zealots who are condemning Dr. Foster because he performed legal abortions should be ashamed," Isaacs said. "Women are entitled to choose to have an abortion, and it is imperative that their rights not be abridged in any way. Those who oppose Foster must understand that a distinguished gynecologist who has been medically responsible in performing abortions should not be penalized for obeying the law and ensuring that a full range of reproductive health choices are available to all women and their families."

#

Contact: Stephen Steiner
Director of Public Relations
212-360-1540

February 3, 1995
For Immediate Release

*Statement of the American Jewish Congress
Commission for Women's Equality
on the
Nomination of Henry Wendell Foster, Jr.
as Surgeon General*

The American Jewish Congress Commission for Women's Equality is delighted that President Clinton has nominated Henry Wendell Foster, Jr. to the post of Surgeon General and hopes that the Congress speedily approves the nomination.

Dr. Foster's experience on the staff of Meharry Medical College and as its Director amply prepares him to serve as Surgeon General. AJCongress is particularly pleased that the President has selected a physician concerned with the issue of women's health needs, an area long neglected by the medical establishment. Dr. Foster's leadership of Nashville's "I Have A Future" programs, a successful effort to teach teenagers to delay sex and childbearing, augurs well for his leadership of President Clinton's campaign to attack the high rate of teenage pregnancy in the United States. Teenage pregnancy creates serious health, social and economic difficulties for adolescent mothers and their children. By his appointment of Dr. Foster, President Clinton has recognized that the solution to this and other health problems lies in increased knowledge, improved communication and the courage of public officials to risk offending some in the service of improving the lives and health of many.

Lois C. Waldman
Acting Director,
Commission for Women's Equality

The American Jewish Congress, founded in 1918 by Rabbi Stephen Wise, Justice Louis Brandeis and other distinguished Jews, specializes in combatting all forms of bigotry through law and legislation. Considered the legal voice of the American Jewish community, it works to safeguard Jewish interests, protect basic freedoms enshrined in the American Bill of Rights and to advance the security of Israel.

-end-



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Second Episcopal District

Frederick Calhoun James, *Presiding Bishop*

1134 11th Street N.W. • Washington, DC 20001 • (202) 842-3788 • FAX (202) 289-1942
3700 Forest Drive, Suite 502 • Columbia, SC 29204 • (803) 787-8201 • FAX (803) 787-8215

February 15, 1995

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SUPPORTS NOMINATION OF DR. HENRY FOSTER FOR SURGEON-GENERAL

Bishop Frederick C. James, Presiding Bishop of The African Methodist Episcopal Church in The States of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and The District of Columbia, informed the leaders of (34) thirty-four African-American-led national organizations, that The African Methodist Episcopal Church is forming a "network of support" of the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster as Surgeon-General of The United States of America.

The AME Church commends the Clinton Administration upon its resolve in taking a strong stand behind the nomination of Dr. Foster.

We, as a Religious Denomination, affirm the impeccable character of the nominee.

We are impressed by the superior qualifications which he brings to the office.

We strongly recommend the adoption of the initiatives of Dr. Foster, in the reduction of teenage pregnancy on a national scale.

We view, with appreciation, the sterling career of Dr. Foster in the fields of medical research, higher educational administration, social sensitivity, character building and role modeling.

We call upon the Congress of The United States of America to rise above partisan issues, which are sure to further divide our country, and to confirm a nominee, whose qualifications for Surgeon-General, unmistakably, indicate that our country needs him today!



SUSAN BRUCK
President

February 14, 1995

Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing as president of an organization of 70,000 Jewish women whose interest lies in the welfare of women and youth to express our support of your nomination of Dr. Henry Foster to be Surgeon General of the United States.

We know from research that we have conducted that 92 percent of Jewish women in this country support a woman's right to choose. We also know that polls show an overwhelming majority of people in the country support upholding *Roe v. Wade*. To make the nomination of Dr. Foster a battleground over choice, as his detractors are doing, ill serves our country as a whole.

We believe, as you do, that Dr. Foster is a candidate worthy of your nomination to this office. His efforts in the area of reducing teen pregnancy and ensuring quality medical services for all of his patients are praiseworthy and speak well for his qualification.

Dr. Foster's medical career has been one of distinction. We pledge to work with you to move the confirmation process forward.

Sincerely,

Susan Bruck
President



Director of Public Relations
Michele Spirn

For Release: Immediately
Contact: Julie Nusbaum
(202) 296-2588

NCJW SUPPORTS FOSTER NOMINATION FOR SURGEON GENERAL

Washington, D.C. -- Susan Katz, National President of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), issued the following statement today on the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster, Jr. for U.S. Surgeon General:

"NCJW believes Dr. Foster to be an extremely qualified candidate for U.S. Surgeon General. Throughout his career, Dr. Foster has advocated responsible reproductive health policies to protect women's health, strengthen families, combat teenage pregnancy, and reduce the need for abortion. We particularly applaud his exemplary "I Have a Future" program, designed to prevent teenage pregnancy, substance abuse and unemployment among teens.

"In more than 30 years as an obstetrician/gynecologist, Dr. Foster has provided routine medical care to women who at some point in their lives may have needed birth control, childbirth, or abortion services. He is now being condemned by radical right-wing groups for performing abortion--a legal medical procedure-- in the context of providing women with a full range of reproductive health care services. The National Council of Jewish Women is gravely concerned that a small but vocal minority is using this issue as a litmus test for holding public office.

"NCJW believes that Dr. Foster will make an outstanding U.S. Surgeon General at this critical time and would serve the health needs of all Americans. We call upon the Senate to move swiftly to confirm Dr. Foster."

The National Council of Jewish Women has long supported family planning and the right of reproductive choice as essential to the lives and health of women and families. We are a volunteer organization, inspired by Jewish values, that works through a program of research, education, advocacy and community service to improve the quality of life for women, children and families and strives to ensure individual rights and freedoms for all. NCJW has 90,000 members in over 500 communities around the country.

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2/16/95

Press Release

National Medical Association

1012 Tenth Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20001

(202) 347-1895 • FAX (202) 512-3293

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, February 9, 1995

Contact: Janice Brown-Glasgow

202-347-1895

No. 295-01

Statement From The National Medical Association on The Nomination of Henry W. Foster, M.D. for U.S. Surgeon General

Washington, D.C., February 9, 1995 -- The National Medical Association strongly supports the nomination of Henry W. Foster, M.D. as United States Surgeon General. Dr. Foster is a long standing member of the National Medical Association. He has served as the Dean and Acting President of Meharry Medical College and he has been a practicing Obstetrician and Gynecologist for more than 30 years. He is a man of integrity, compassion and is an extremely qualified candidate.

Dr. Foster is a competent physician who has been working on public health problems for decades. He has delivered thousands of babies and has been involved in programs working to prevent teenage pregnancy by encouraging abstinence, staying in school and making good choices. The National Medical Association feels that the controversy over Dr. Foster's candidacy is misguided and views his ultimate appointment as U.S. Surgeon General as an opportunity to improve the quality of care for people across the country.

The National Medical Association represents the interests of more than 20,000 African American physicians who promote the science and art of medicine. We enthusiastically support Dr. Foster's nomination.

XXXXX

VOTERS FOR CHOICE

FRIENDS OF FAMILY PLANNING

February 14, 1995

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* Affiliations listed for identification
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Paid for by Voters For Choice
and not authorized by any candidate

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton,

I am writing to you in support of the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster for Surgeon General of the United States. Based on Dr. Foster's long and distinguished career as an Obstetrician/Gynecologist it is clear that he is a superb candidate for the post of Surgeon General. The remarkable success of his "I Have a Future Program" demonstrates his unique skill and his unwavering devotion to reducing teen pregnancies, a problem of epidemic proportions in our country.

It is deeply disturbing to see Dr. Foster subjected to assault by those opposing his nomination simply because he has provided abortion services to his patients. For twenty-two years, abortion has been a safe and legal procedure in the United States. Moreover, polls consistently demonstrate that more than 70% of the American public supports the right to choose. The medical services Dr. Foster has provided to his clients reflect the full range of safe, legal, and appropriate reproductive health care.

Voters For Choice, founded by Gloria Steinem and Planned Parenthood board members, is the nation's largest independent, bi-partisan pro-choice political action committee. We are pleased to support the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster as the United States Surgeon General and will encourage other Americans to support him as well.

Sincerely,


Julie Burton
Executive Director



PRESS RELEASE:

February 16, 1995

The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) supports the nomination of Dr. Henry W. Foster, Jr. as the United States Surgeon General.

His background makes him eminently qualified to provide leadership in the effort to improve America's health. His career in obstetrics and gynecology, research and academia make him an ideal candidate for Surgeon General.

Dr. Foster directed a model teenage pregnancy prevention program. His sound approach of combining strong abstinence messages with comprehensive sexuality education that promotes communication and refusal skills is evidence that Dr. Foster will endorse effective and responsible education for young people.

The issue of Dr. Foster having performed legal abortion procedures should not be an impediment to his confirmation. Pregnancy termination is one of many surgical procedures that are routinely taught and performed in his field in order to provide women with the full range of medically necessary care.

SIECUS strongly believes that the focus of the nomination consideration should be on Dr. Foster's long and reputable career in medicine. He is a candidate that can address, with authority, a multitude of public health issues.



Director of Public Relations
Michele Spirn

For Release: Immediately
Contact: Julie Nusbaum
(202) 296-2588

NCJW SUPPORTS FOSTER NOMINATION FOR SURGEON GENERAL

Washington, D.C. -- Susan Katz, National President of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), issued the following statement today on the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster, Jr. for U.S. Surgeon General:

"NCJW believes Dr. Foster to be an extremely qualified candidate for U.S. Surgeon General. Throughout his career, Dr. Foster has advocated responsible reproductive health policies to protect women's health, strengthen families, combat teenage pregnancy, and reduce the need for abortion. We particularly applaud his exemplary "I Have a Future" program, designed to prevent teenage pregnancy, substance abuse and unemployment among teens.

"In more than 30 years as an obstetrician/gynecologist, Dr. Foster has provided routine medical care to women who at some point in their lives may have needed birth control, childbirth, or abortion services. He is now being condemned by radical right-wing groups for performing abortion--a legal medical procedure-- in the context of providing women with a full range of reproductive health care services. The National Council of Jewish Women is gravely concerned that a small but vocal minority is using this issue as a litmus test for holding public office.

"NCJW believes that Dr. Foster will make an outstanding U.S. Surgeon General at this critical time and would serve the health needs of all Americans. We call upon the Senate to move swiftly to confirm Dr. Foster."

The National Council of Jewish Women has long supported family planning and the right of reproductive choice as essential to the lives and health of women and families. We are a volunteer organization, inspired by Jewish values, that works through a program of research, education, advocacy and community service to improve the quality of life for women, children and families and strives to ensure individual rights and freedoms for all. NCJW has 90,000 members in over 500 communities around the country.

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2/16/95



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Washington Representative:
Health and Medicine Counsel
of Washington
Dale P. Dirks

February 15, 1995

The Association of Minority Health Professions Schools (AMHPS) today expressed its support for the nomination of Henry Foster, MD as the Surgeon General of the United States.

AMHPS President, Dr. Reed Tuckson stated, "Dr. Foster is a national leader in medicine and research. His efforts to develop programs for the education and academic enrichment of young people, particularly minorities, have been commendable. Dr. Foster's "I Have a Future" program at Nashville's Meharry Medical College is truly a national model."

Dr. Foster is a former acting president of Meharry Medical College. Meharry is an institutional member of AMHPS, which represents the nation's Historically Black medical, dental, pharmacy and veterinary schools.

For more information
contact: Dale Dirks
(202) 544-7499

Press Release

Zero
Population
Growth

Contact: Brian Dixon or Sharon Pickett
(202) 332-2200

February 16, 1995

**STATEMENT BY SUSAN WEBER,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ZERO POPULATION GROWTH
IN SUPPORT OF DR. HENRY FOSTER**

Zero Population Growth strongly supports the appointment of Dr. Henry Foster, Jr., as Surgeon General of the United States.

Dr. Foster has a distinguished career as an obstetrician/gynecologist and has been honored by both the medical profession and the nation. Former President George Bush named him one of the "thousand points of light."

Dr. Foster has long advocated responsible policies that protect the health of women, strengthen families, combat teen pregnancy and reduce the need for abortions. He is responsible for developing *I Have a Future*, a program that has been very successful in helping young people prevent unwanted pregnancies, avoid substance abuse and assume responsible, productive roles in society.

Dr. Foster's support for comprehensive school health education will help our nation reduce the rate of teen pregnancy -- currently the highest in the industrialized world -- and the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases as well as decreasing dropout rates and abortions. America needs national leaders with experience in successfully addressing these issues, and Dr. Foster has that experience.

The outrageous attacks on Dr. Foster for his support of abortion rights and family planning must not be allowed to prevail. Poll after poll shows strong public support for women's reproductive freedom and increasing anger over attacks on doctors. We cannot allow the opponents of abortion and family planning to succeed in their efforts to turn Dr. Foster into an enemy. Doing so will only further encourage those who target physicians for isolation and violence.

Dr. Foster is an extremely qualified candidate for Surgeon General. We urge the Senate to confirm him.



*National
Hispanic
Medical
Association*

February 10, 1995

President Bill Clinton
The White House

Dear President Clinton:

This letter is written in strong support for your nomination of Dr. Henry Foster for U.S. Surgeon General because he has the leadership, knowledge, and commitment required to be the spokesperson for a national health agenda.

The attention in Congress to cutting federal programs will inevitably lead to the call for cutting Medicaid and Medicare and the time is fast approaching for a strong champion of the poor to have the visibility to balance the debate for the public. I can think of no better champion than Dr. Foster, with his track record of planning and directing programs for the African American poor in his community.

Dr. Foster is an Ob-Gyn physician, and it is obvious that the critics of his nomination are ignoring the fact that American medical education promotes the training of all medical students, and, especially Ob-Gyn trainees, to become expert in a whole range of obstetrical and gynecological procedures. Moreover, the moral attitudes of the critics of the nominee should not be the determining factor that would stop a role model to the minority physicians in the United States from assuming a leadership role in American society.

I met Dr. Foster in March, 1994 at the NIH Minority Research Conference in Chicago. We had a conversation about the importance of recruitment of minority students into medicine. Dr. Foster informed me that he had directed a national conference for African American students for several years. I admire Dr. Foster for his dedication to the future of these students and to the improvement of US health care.

As a minority physician who has attained the rank of medical school faculty member and inspired his colleagues and his community, Dr. Foster deserves to be heard by the American public as US Surgeon General to educate them about their responsibility for the health needs of the United States.

Sincerely,

Elena Rios, MD

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Fact Sheet

Planned Parenthood® Federation of America, Inc.

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1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20036 (202) 785-3351 Fax: (202) 293-4349

Planned Parenthood Services

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

In 1993, more than 2.4 million women and men obtained reproductive health services at 915 clinics operated by 164 Planned Parenthood affiliates. Providing a wide range of clinical services, Planned Parenthood affiliates are present in the District of Columbia and in every state except North Dakota.

<u>Service</u>	<u>No. of Procedures</u>	<u>Referrals</u>
Female Contraception	1,904,599	
Male Contraception	17,680	
Abortion	134,277	80,743
HIV/AIDS Testing		
female	115,995	
male	33,702	
Vasectomy	3,070	2,338
Female Sterilization	960	4,999
Prenatal Care	9,943	103,401
Infertility Treatment	789	2,604
Colposcopy	17,728	
Cryotherapy	6,606	
Midlife Services for Women	8,573	
Post-Coital Contraception	9,758	
Other Treatment & Health Maintenance		
female	975,226	168,101
male	35,730	
TOTAL	3,274,636	362,186

Through the provision of contraceptive services, it is estimated that each year Planned Parenthood helps avert 494,000 unintended pregnancies, more than 212,000 unintended births, and more than 216,000 abortions in the U.S.¹

Patients made more than 5 million medical visits to Planned Parenthood centers in 1993. Of the women who received contraceptive care, the largest group (37.2 percent) was between 20 and 24 years of age; those between 15 and 19 years of age comprised 25.5 percent of the total. In 1993, Planned Parenthood provided contraceptive services to more than 485,000 teen women, more than 5 percent of the total estimated U.S. population in this category.

¹ Computation by The Alan Guttmacher Institute, based on the most realistic estimate of continuing contraceptive patterns and the expected number of unintended pregnancies among Planned Parenthood's current contraceptive clients, in the absence of these services. AGI memorandum, December 9, 1993.

EDUCATION SERVICES

All Planned Parenthood affiliates provide sexual and reproductive health education as well as patient education. Planned Parenthood seeks to ensure that the ongoing process of learning about human sexuality will enhance personal development and enable people of all ages to make informed, healthy choices about their sexual and reproductive lives.

In 1993, Planned Parenthood educators reached more than 1.6 million people of all ages from diverse cultural groups through 66,066 programs. Planned Parenthood sponsors educational activities in such settings as schools, places of worship, community fairs, housing projects, neighborhood meetings, prisons, shelters for the homeless, and residential centers for adjudicated dependent and delinquent youth.

School and Community Education

Nearly 330,000 students in elementary and middle grades and more than 530,000 high school students participated in school-based sexuality education delivered by Planned Parenthood educators in 1993. Planned Parenthood education programs in 1993 also reached more than 25,000 participants in substance abuse programs and nearly 43,000 juveniles in detention.

Professional Training

By training other professionals and human service providers, Planned Parenthood expands the potential impact of its prevention efforts. In 1993, educators designed and delivered programs for more than 100,000 professionals on a variety of topics. Teachers comprised the largest number who participated in training programs. Others participating in training included school counselors, nurses, social workers, community organizers and outreach workers, physicians, and college/university faculty program coordinators and residential assistants.

Content Areas of Planned Parenthood Education and Training Programs

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| - Contraception/family planning | - Sexually transmitted diseases |
| - Teenage pregnancy issues | - HIV disease |
| - Parent-child communication | - Puberty education |
| - Safer sex | - Sexuality education skills |
| - Advocating reproductive rights | - Parenting skills |
| - Women's health | - Life option skills |
| - Abortion | - Pregnancy and birth |
| - Date/acquaintance rape | - Communication skills |
| - Child sexual abuse prevention | - Sexual orientation/homophobia |
| - Advocating comprehensive school-based sexuality education | - Cross-cultural diversity |

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Planned Parenthood Federation of America

In New York:
212/261-4665

In Washington, D.C.:
202/785-3351



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

A Public Service Sorority Founded in 1913

1707 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. ▲ Washington, DC 20009 ▲ (202) 986-2400 ▲ Telefax (202) 986-2513

February 16, 1995

Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

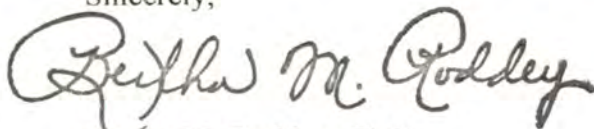
Dear Mr. President:

This letter is written on behalf of the 185,000 members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. to register our support for your nomination of Dr. Henry Foster, Jr. as United States Surgeon General. Dr. Foster's long-standing commitment to promoting and providing quality maternal and child health care is to be commended and applauded. It is our firm belief that he possesses the professional qualifications, the vision and the untiring devotion to enable him to serve our nation in the capacity of Surgeon General.

As a public service organization, our mission is to render public service in rural and urban communities throughout this country and in several foreign nations. In many instances, Dr. Foster's ideas have inspired and materialized into actual programs that our members are currently implementing. He has demonstrated through his "I Have a Future" program that one person can make a difference. Dr. Foster has made a difference in the lives of children, teens, mothers and yes, fathers through his work over 40 years in the area of Public Health.

We commend you on Dr. Foster's nomination and assure you that we have instituted a nationwide concerted effort to secure his confirmation.

Sincerely,



Bertha M. Roddey, Ph.D.
National President

Attachment: Resolution

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

A Public Service Sorority Founded in 1913

1707 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. ▲ Washington, DC 20009 ▲ (202) 986-2400 ▲ Telefax (202) 986-2513

16. Support Of Programs To Reduce The High Incidence Of Teen-Age Pregnancies

WHEREAS, the United States has the highest rate of teen-age pregnancies in the world and black teen-age pregnancy represents the highest incidence of teen-age pregnancies in the United States; and

WHEREAS, 57% of births to teenage mothers are to black teens under age 17 and 33% of these pregnancies are to teens between the ages of 15 and 17, most of whom are single, and never marry; and

WHEREAS, the problem of black teen pregnancy is pervasive and has had an adverse effect on the entire community, particularly since the black female teen-agers are out of school and out of work, thus depriving them of an opportunity to obtain life development skills and work experience; and

WHEREAS, children born to teen-age mothers face an increased risk of disease, untimely death, poor health and education, economic deprivation, and other attendant ills of poverty; and

WHEREAS, among the many difficulties faced by the young parents are poverty, which becomes a way of life, and dependency on government assistance, which becomes a must; and

WHEREAS, the extended family structure has become a victim of the hardships of urban community life and anti-family policies of public assistance agencies; and,

WHEREAS, the family of today, when it is the victim of unemployment and economic depression, consists of the young single mother who seldom turns to the father of her children for help; and,

WHEREAS, the problem has reached epidemic proportions and will only be reversed through massive effort;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. continue to address the problems of black teen pregnancy and make this issue a high priority program and policy concern;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. develop strategies to break the cycle of children having children by creating model educational programs and funding pilot programs that will address the following issues;

1. effective sex education for all teens, male and female; to make them aware of the consequences of unwanted pregnancies;
2. the necessity of preventing further pregnancies of teen mothers;
3. enlightened school policies that will motivate teens to stay in school and that will make opportunities available to continue their education;



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4. career counseling so that teens will be aware of the possibilities of better-paying jobs or careers;
5. societal attitudes toward sex;
6. strengthening the family structure through counseling and value clarification programs to provide caring and nurturing to the extended family; and,
7. creation of incentives to keep teen-age parents in school and motivate them to return to school after delivery;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. mount a nationwide campaign to demand that;

1. the federal, state and local governments enact laws and provide appropriate funding for special job training programs, continued basic education and child care for high risk teens;
2. the federal government refrain from cutting any funds now appropriated for health care for high risk infants and infants of teen-age mothers;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. support the on-going and future efforts of other national organizations that sponsor and conduct programs to decrease the high incidence of teen-age pregnancy;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. utilize the findings of Summit II to seek funding sources to carry out this activity and aid in the development of innovative solutions. 1985

Adopted by the National Convention of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in session at Dallas, Texas 1985.



NEWS RELEASE

The National Black Caucus of State Legislators _____

444 N. Capitol St., NW • Suite 622 • Hall of the States • Washington, DC 20001 • (202) 624-5457 • Fax (202) 508-3826

February 16, 1995

STATEMENT OF TENNESSEE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE LOIS DEBERRY, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL BLACK CAUCUS OF STATE LEGISLATORS

The National Black Caucus of State Legislators commends President Clinton and DHHS Secretary Shalala on their selection of Dr. Henry Foster, Jr., to be U.S. Surgeon General. Dr. Foster's longstanding commitment to improving access to medical care makes him an excellent choice to carry out the Surgeon General's mission to promote the protection and advancement of the nation's health.

Dr. Foster is a dedicated teacher, a dependable leader and a concerned advocate for health. Over the course of his 38-year career, Dr. Foster has emphasized disease prevention and the promotion of health-seeking behaviors among the nation's most at-risk populations. The success of the "I Have a Future" program he developed is testimony to Dr. Foster's commitment to promoting reality-based solutions to critical social problems. This nominee is an exceptionally qualified candidate who has long advocated responsible reproductive health policies that protect women's health, strengthen families, combat teenage pregnancy and reduce the need for abortion. Opponents of the Clinton administration, however, are now attacking Dr. Foster for practicing good family medicine in the context of providing women with the full range of reproductive health care services they require. These exaggerated and unsubstantiated charges are an assault on the professional judgment of physicians and on the doctor/patient relationship.

NBCSL urges the U.S. Senate to consider Dr. Foster's entire lifetime of extraordinary work and not to allow his appointment to be derailed by the politics of abortion or partisan tactics. We know that, once confirmed, Dr. Foster will serve with distinction and make many positive contributions to the nation's public health.

Founded in 1977, the National Black Caucus of State legislators represents 550 lawmakers in 43 states, the U.S Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia.

(For more information, contact Diane Bush or Chuck Bremer at 202-624-5457.)



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 16, 1995

CONTACT: GINA SHAW
202/667-5881

ABORTION PROVIDERS SUPPORT FOSTER NOMINATION; JOIN PUBLIC FORUM AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

The National Abortion Federation, the national professional association of abortion providers, today reaffirmed its support for Dr. Henry Foster, President Clinton's nominee for Surgeon General of the United States, joining the President and Dr. Foster at a public forum. "Dr. Foster's record speaks for itself," said Donna Singletary, NAF's Government Relations Director. "He has devoted his life to the service of the public health, most particularly reproductive health services."

NAF is reassured by the pro-active stance taken by the White House and Dr. Foster in recent days to counter the misrepresentation and public attacks mounted by the extreme right wing. "It is important that the public know that this Surgeon General nominee supports and respects both the women who seek abortion services and his colleagues who provide those services," said Singletary. "We were initially concerned that the invective of an extremist minority was being allowed to shape the discussion. Abortion is one of the most commonly performed surgical procedures in this country. When you attack abortion care, you attack the women of America."

--More--

The providers NAF represents are outraged at the witch hunt being pursued by extreme right-wing groups against Dr. Foster for providing abortion services. "Fanatics, out of touch with the needs and beliefs of most Americans, have tried to back President Clinton and Dr. Foster into a corner," said Singletary. "We urge Dr. Foster and the President to continue to stand firm in their support of a women's right to complete reproductive health care. It should not matter how many abortions any physician has performed, for what reasons, or in what setting. Dr. Henry Foster should be applauded, not attacked, for providing abortion services to women who need them."

The National Abortion Federation has tracked the growing incidence of anti-choice violence across the United States since 1977. The marginalization of abortion providers has played a key role in the growth of this violence, according to NAF. "In the attacks on Dr. Foster, we see the same kind of demonization that we see at clinics across the country every day," Singletary noted. "This principled physician must not and will not permit himself to be forced to apologize for providing a vital public health service."



Planned Parenthood®
Federation of America, Inc.

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 16, 1995

CONTACT:
Susan Lamontagne: 212/261-4652
Mona Miller: 202/785-3351

PLANNED PARENTHOOD BACKS DR. HENRY FOSTER FOR SURGEON GENERAL POST

**Statement by Pamela J. Maraldo, Ph.D., President
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Planned Parenthood Action Fund**

Day by day, the myths and distortions that have been circulated by far-right extremists about U.S. surgeon general nominee Dr. Henry Foster are giving way to the facts.

The real Henry Foster, Americans are now discovering, is a respected physician, teacher, and leader who has devoted his entire professional life to improving the lives of those most in need. Henry Foster is a man who young people turn to and whose lives were salvaged because he helped them aspire to a better future. The American medical community has spoken on behalf of Dr. Foster's outstanding accomplishments and vouched for his integrity and commitment. President George Bush recognized Dr. Foster's leadership, and awarded his "I Have a Future" program -- which works to reduce teen age pregnancy by emphasizing job skills, responsibility, education, and self-discipline -- a "point of light."

With this outpouring of support, Americans are beginning to recognize the campaign to derail Dr. Foster's nomination for what it is: political posturing at the expense

- more -



of women's health and the nation's public health. If this is a preview of how the Congress is going to deal with these issues, we are a nation in serious trouble.

Consider the problems Dr. Foster is working to solve: At a time when the United States has the dubious distinction of having the highest rate of teen pregnancy in the Western world, we have a chance to confirm a surgeon general who is a respected leader in preventing teen pregnancy. We also have one of the world's highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV infection is spreading fastest among women and teenagers, and we have one of the highest infant mortality rates in the developed world.

And so, at a time when we have public health crises of epidemic proportions affecting thousands of women and their families, it is unconscionable that extremist politicians have put their own agenda first and attacked Dr. Foster's credibility.

The real credibility problem lies with political representatives who are trying to hide their true motives in opposing Dr. Foster. Opponents are playing games with health care for their own political gain, and have little concern for the lives of young people and women which are in jeopardy.

The issue at stake in Dr. Foster's nomination is clear: will health policy in America be dictated by zealots and extremists who appear to be gaining control of the Republican party and the Congress, or will reason and concern for the needs of mainstream America prevail?

Planned Parenthood is proud to support Dr. Foster for U.S. surgeon general because Americans need physicians, not politicians, to write our public health prescriptions.

Planned Parenthood affiliates nationwide have been flooded with calls from people

supporting Dr. Foster's nomination. These same callers are expressing outrage at the lies and distortions extremists are telling about Planned Parenthood — our mission, our values, our policies, and our beliefs.

Just yesterday, a staff member at our women's health center in Nashville told me that a woman recognized her and asked if she worked for Planned Parenthood. When she said yes, the woman gave her a five dollar donation and said, "Dr. Foster delivered my two sons. He's one of the kindest men I know -- a good Christian -- and it's a shame what they're trying to do to him in Washington."

That woman's voice of support is being echoed at our facilities nationwide. We are here today to carry those voices to the policymakers in Washington.

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Planned Parenthood® Federation of America, the world's oldest and largest voluntary reproductive health care organization, is dedicated to the principle that every individual has a fundamental right to choose when or whether to have a child.

Planned Parenthood's 160 not-for-profit affiliates operate nearly 1,000 clinics in 49 states and the District of Columbia. Planned Parenthood centers provide medical and educational services for four million Americans each year, regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or economic circumstances. Through its international program, Family Planning International Assistance®, Planned Parenthood helps meet the family planning needs of women and men in the developing world.



PLANNED PARENTHOOD SUPPORTS SURGEON GENERAL NOMINEE

Dr. Foster promotes healthy women, healthy families, healthy America

Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) applauds the Clinton Administration for the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster to the position of U.S. Surgeon General. Dr. Foster is an eminently qualified physician, a driving force in the prevention of teen pregnancy, and a leader in the field of public health. Dr. Foster is an unwavering proponent of compassionate, comprehensive, and effective solutions to some of our nation's most troubling public health crises — solutions that focus on prevention and personal responsibility. Planned Parenthood is proud of our long association with Dr. Foster and we vigorously support his nomination.

Two Decades of Commitment to Planned Parenthood

For two decades, Dr. Foster has aided Planned Parenthood in our mission to protect the reproductive health and freedom of all Americans. He has served on local and national Planned Parenthood boards since 1974. We are privileged that Dr. Foster continues his involvement in Planned Parenthood today as a member of the Board Advisory Council of Planned Parenthood of Middle Tennessee (Nashville), where he works tirelessly in the community to reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy.

On the national level, Dr. Foster is a member of PPFA's Public Policy Advocates, which works to ensure access to reproductive health care, including abortion, for all women. The help of Public Policy Advocates like Dr. Foster was critical to the passage of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act. The first pro-choice legislation passed by Congress, FACE is designed to protect patients and staff at women's health care centers.

Planned Parenthood: America's Most Trusted Name in Women's Health Care

Planned Parenthood has become America's most trusted name in women's health care because of the services we provide: In nearly 1,000 health centers nationwide, Planned Parenthood serves four million women and men each year — making us the nation's largest provider of comprehensive reproductive health care, including birth control methods and counseling, breast exams, PAP tests, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, infertility services, and comprehensive sexuality education. Indeed, one in four American women is or has been a Planned Parenthood client.

Through these services, Planned Parenthood does more to prevent abortion than any anti-choice group. Each year, our health centers help women avert nearly half a million unintended pregnancies that otherwise would result in abortion or unwanted birth. Moreover, we provide these services in an increasingly hostile climate where our staff members are being harassed and even murdered as a result of extremist attacks.

- more -

Foster's "I Have a Future" Program Gives Teens Hope

Dr. Foster is the creator of the highly successful "I Have a Future" program at Meharry Medical College. This much-acclaimed program stresses job skills, sexual responsibility, education, and self-control. In the six years since Dr. Foster developed the program, "I Have a Future" has worked to give Nashville teens complete and accurate information about sex and sexuality. An article in *The Tennessean* quoted several teens in the program who praise "I Have a Future" for "giving a lot of people a chance" and teaching them "how to be in relationships... and not necessarily have sexual intercourse."

Foster Supports Education and Health Care for Young People

In nominating Dr. Foster, President Clinton praised his efforts in combatting "the epidemic of teen pregnancies" — one of the most pressing issues confronting this country as well as one of Planned Parenthood's central concerns. Dr. Foster is a strong advocate of reality-based sexuality education programs in our nation's schools. Like most Americans, who want their children to have the facts they need to make wise and healthy choices, Dr. Foster and Planned Parenthood recognize that sexuality education must address the realities of our children's lives and prepare them to make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive health.

Dr. Foster joins Planned Parenthood in supporting school-based clinics that expand teenagers' access to health services. School-based clinics are comprehensive health care centers providing medical and mental health services for young people at or near more than 600 schools across the nation. These clinics are designed to overcome the barriers to health care that many adolescents face, including lack of confidentiality, insurance coverage, prohibitive costs, and general apprehension about discussing personal health problems. While only 30 percent of these health centers in high schools make condoms available, a 1988 Harris poll found that 73 percent of Americans favor making birth control information and contraceptives available through school-based clinics.

The Right Choice for Surgeon General

Clearly, Dr. Foster's long history as a champion of public health makes him a highly qualified nominee for surgeon general. It is unconscionable that a small minority of extremists is attempting to block his confirmation by noting that Dr. Foster has performed abortions — a legal, constitutionally-protected procedure — when he and his patient deemed it to be medically necessary or appropriate. The idea that doctors would be barred from public office for providing a legal service is reprehensible. Most Americans support the right to choose and will not allow a cadre of radicals to target and stigmatize any physician who has protected that right.

Dr. Foster, through his association with Planned Parenthood, his "I Have a Future" program, and his impeccable credentials as a health care provider, promotes a healthy future for America based on prevention and responsibility. The overwhelming majority of Americans support and approve of Dr. Foster's philosophy of health care and his focus on preventing teen pregnancy. In attempting to defeat his nomination, his critics are attacking the medical care that American women, men, and families want and need. It is these extremists who are out of touch with the American mainstream.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 16, 1995

ASPH

**ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOLS OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**

1015 FIFTEENTH ST., N.W.
SUITE 404
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005
202-842-4668

STATEMENT OF ALLAN ROSENFELD, M.D.
SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF
DR. HENRY FOSTER AS U.S. SURGEON GENERAL

I strongly support the nomination of Dr. Henry W. Foster as Surgeon General of the United States. It is my belief that Dr. Foster will truly be an outstanding Surgeon General given his remarkable 30 year record. I believe that the focus of the media on the number of abortions he has provided or on other issues that have been raised have resulted in an inadequate review of Dr. Foster's long and distinguished career. As an obstetrician, it is part of his responsibility to provide the services his patients need and it happens that abortion is a constitutionally protected health care service that is provided primarily by obstetrician/gynecologists. I do not believe that he was being deceptive in the changing numbers, but rather made the mistake of attempting to estimate numbers of a procedure in a 30 year period of time, something none of us could do accurately.

Dr. Foster is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine, one of the most prestigious organizations in the field of medicine, having been elected as one of the youngest people in that institution's history. He has contributed significantly in such areas as teen pregnancy, infant mortality, sickle cell disease, and maternity care. Dr. Foster's model program "I Have a Future" has been cited repeatedly by many people as a national model for curbing teen pregnancy. It promotes family values, the delay in onset of sexual activity, and the creation of improved self image.

Most of the major established medical societies in the United States, including the AMA, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Public Health Association, the Association of Schools of Public Health, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Institute of Medicine and many others have supported Dr. Foster's nomination. He is a highly appropriate nominee who will, in my opinion, be both an excellent leader of our public health service and will serve extremely well the interests of American women, in particular, and the American public in general.

#

NARAL Promoting Reproductive Choices



STATEMENT OF KATE MICHELMAN
President
National Abortion and Reproductive
Rights Action League (NARAL)

CONTACT: Karen Schneider
Darryl Lynette Figueroa
202/973-3032

On The Pro-Choice Mobilization For
Surgeon General-Nominee Dr. Henry W. Foster Jr.

February 16, 1995

Today, we come together to tell opponents of choice, opponents of liberty, opponents of freedom: The war you declared on Surgeon General-nominee Dr. Henry W. Foster Jr. is a war you will not win. We know that you are determined to destroy this nominee as part of your crusade to make abortion unavailable and, ultimately, illegal in this country.

Americans will not let you take this nation back to the days when women were forced to the back alleys for reproductive health care.

Like most Americans, Dr. Foster wants abortion to be safe and legal. He has long advocated responsible reproductive health policies that protect women's health, strengthen families, combat teen pregnancy, and reduce the need for abortion.

For 37 years, Dr. Foster has faithfully fulfilled his responsibility to his patients. His "I Have a Future" program is nationally recognized for teaching low-income teenagers to delay sex and child-bearing by improving their self-esteem. It is a testament to Dr. Foster's wisdom and vision that the teenagers in the program have recorded only one pregnancy.

But too many opponents are deliberately ignoring Dr. Foster's distinguished career. Instead, they are exploiting his nomination to ostracize, isolate and demonize

*National Abortion
and Reproductive Rights
Action League*

*1156 15th Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005*

*Phone (202) 973-3000
Fax (202) 973-3096*

Page Two

doctors who perform a legal medical service. They want to drive doctors away from the field and make abortion unavailable to American women.

Their campaign is nothing more than a witch-hunt to smear Dr. Foster and brand him with a "Scarlet Letter" because he has performed abortions as part of his medical practice. It makes no difference to them that Dr. Foster has devoted his life to making abortion less necessary through family planning and other services. It makes no difference to them that Dr. Foster has done more than most to help teenagers avoid pregnancy.

Instead of pillorying Dr. Foster, opponents of choice should laud him for his commitment to real "family values." He has worked tirelessly to help his patients face fewer unplanned pregnancies, fewer unwanted children, fewer babies born too early, too small and too sick.

Those who want to criminalize abortion are imposing an anti-choice litmus test to prevent doctors from holding public office if they provide the full range of reproductive health care to women.

The radical religious right is stepping up its campaign -- by attacking this nominee and by decreeing, as Christian Coalition leader Ralph Reed did last week, that no pro-choice candidate need apply for a place on the Republican presidential ticket in 1996.

NARAL will do everything in its power to thwart the radical religious right. Through grassroots organizing, phone banking, mailings and public education, we are mobilizing pro-choice Americans to support Dr. Foster.

NARAL pledges its unequivocal and enthusiastic support to this nominee. We intend to help make Dr. Henry Foster the next Surgeon General of the United States.

Statement

**Keith Geiger, President
National Education Association
February 16, 1995**

In Support of the Nomination of Dr. Henry Foster as Surgeon General

The National Education Association supports the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster as Surgeon General of the United States. His distinguished career, which has been marked by praise from former President George Bush and respect from his peers and the thousands of people whose lives he has touched, brings honor to the post of Surgeon General.

NEA commends Dr. Foster for his work in addressing a critical issue of the day -- the epidemic of teenage pregnancy -- and we especially laud his work in the field of abstinence-based sex education. His efforts reflect precisely the type of comprehensive health education programs we believe all schools should offer, that is, programs that promote responsible behavior and reflect the values of the community.

NEA applauds Dr. Foster's innovative program to reduce teenage pregnancies -- the "I Have a Future" program -- which emphasizes abstinence and helps steer at-risk teens toward positive life choices. NEA members teach our students traditional American values: hard work, tolerance, personal responsibility, honesty, and respect for themselves and others. We are delighted that the President has nominated a candidate for Surgeon General who stresses these values.

As an obstetrician, Dr. Foster's work primarily has been in the area of reproductive health, but he is clearly qualified to address the full range of health issues facing the nation today. And we believe he should be given that opportunity to share his experience and his wisdom as the nation's doctor.

We believe Dr. Foster deserves a fair hearing and should be judged on his entire medical career. He deserves confirmation.

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2/16/95



**PEOPLE FOR
THE AMERICAN WAY**
Your Voice Against Intolerance

February 16, 1995
For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Carol Blum, Mary Conway,
Peter Montgomery, Virginia Witt
(202) 467-4999

**RELIGIOUS RIGHT POLITICAL GROUPS USE FOSTER NOMINATION
TO PUSH HARD-LINE POSITIONS ON ABORTION, SEX EDUCATION**

REPORT PROVES THAT REAL TARGET IS WOMEN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

**REPUBLICANS ARE WARNED THAT 'ALL HELL WILL BREAK LOOSE'
IF GOP FAILS TO MAKE ABORTION A LITMUS TEST**

Nomination fight 'the first opportunity to escalate the culture war in the new Congress'

Religious Right political leaders are using the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster as Surgeon General of the United States to promote a hard-line anti-choice position on abortion, according to "The Nomination of Dr. Henry Foster: The Religious Right's Litmus Test," a report released today by People For the American Way.

"The Foster nomination offers right-wing groups the first opportunity to escalate the culture war in the new Congress," said People For the American Way President Arthur J. Kropp. "Religious Right leaders want Foster's head in their trophy case as a symbol of the movement's new political clout. It's part and parcel of their ongoing effort to pick at abortion from every angle, eventually circumventing the law by making the procedure unavailable to most women."

People For's report documents Religious Right television, radio and mail campaigns that link the attacks on Dr. Foster's nomination to right-wing goals of ending the availability of abortion as well as the teaching of comprehensive sex education in public school classrooms.

"This report makes it clear that the numbers game being used against Dr. Foster is a smokescreen," said People For the American Way Public Policy Director Leslie Harris. "The issue is not whether the White House did a good or bad job in handling the nomination. The issue is whether American women will lose their right to a safe and legal abortion."

Dr. Foster's nationally renowned teenage pregnancy prevention program, "I Have a Future," was recognized as one of the Bush administration's "Thousand Points of Light." But the program has been irresponsibly savaged by Religious Right leaders for providing birth control to teenagers *with* parental permission. Foster himself has been disparaged as a "Condom King" and a "ghoul" with "blood on his hands."

"The Religious Right is trying to turn Dr. Foster from a point of light into the prince of darkness," said Harris.

The report also documents Religious Right leaders' efforts to intimidate the Republican Party by threatening electoral retribution. Judie Brown of the American Life League arrogantly warned that "all hell is going to break loose" if Foster's nomination goes forward. Focus on the Family commentator Bob McCallister thundered, "If the Republican Senate is not willing to slam dunk this man because of his past then the distinction between the political parties will be abolished ... If an abortionist and condom pusher gets through the Republican Senate, it's time to talk third party." Republican presidential candidate Pat Buchanan said, "The final vote will tell us more about the U.S. Senate than it will about Dr. Foster, about whom we already know enough."

"Dr. Foster's nomination has dashed the hopes of some congressional leaders who were looking for the Religious Right to keep quiet about their culture war agenda during the 100-day push for Newt Gingrich's Contract with America," said People For President Arthur Kropp. "It's actually fortuitous that the Right hasn't been able to contain itself. Now all of America can get a real good look at what the Religious Right wants and how they're going to go about achieving it."

People For the American Way is a 300,000-member nonpartisan constitutional liberties organization.



PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY

Your Voice Against Intolerance

The Nomination of Dr. Henry Foster: The Religious Right's Litmus Test

Since November's congressional elections, the various factions within the Republican party have struggled to present a unified front in support of Speaker Newt Gingrich's "Contract for America." At its simplest level, that effort has required that the Religious Right, having contributed mightily to the party's electoral gains, be willing to set its core issues aside (at least for the first 100 days of the new Congress), while the Contract issues are advanced.

President Clinton's nomination of Dr. Henry Foster to the post of Surgeon General has introduced a new, and apparently insurmountable, challenge to the party's effort to suppress divisive social issues. Within hours of the announcement of Dr. Foster's nomination, Religious Right leaders launched a vicious attack, focused squarely on issues Speaker Gingrich and his colleagues had sought to avoid: abortion, AIDS prevention and teen sexuality.

Throughout his career, Dr. Foster has been a staunch advocate of abstinence-based sex education, teen pregnancy prevention, and youth drug treatment programs. His work earned his "I Have a Future" program one of President Bush's "Thousand Points of Light" awards, in recognition of its efforts to combat teen pregnancy. But rather than weighing the merits of the nomination, the Right launched an organized campaign to disparage the nominee and to return the debate to the social issues that Congressional leaders had worked so hard to avoid.

Apparently recognizing the inherent danger of refocusing the debate on social issues, nomination opponents have in recent days sought to portray their opposition to Dr. Foster as driven by concerns about his "credibility." That explanation is utterly belied by the vicious, issue-based rhetoric offered up by Religious Right leaders in their daily broadcasts, statements and speeches. The truth is that it is abortion and sex education that lies at the heart of the Right's opposition. As they did with Dr. Joycelyn Elders, the movement is developing a pretext for its opposition, when what they really oppose is Dr. Foster's substantive policies. Indeed, the Religious Right has enunciated nothing short of a two-part litmus test for the position of Surgeon General; he or she must be anti-choice, and anti-sex education.

Despite his distinguished career, the Right has worked to vilify Dr. Foster for his ties to Planned Parenthood, his support for condom use, and his performance of abortions. Through Religious Right radio and TV programs, the message was sent that Dr. Foster

was Dr. Elders reincarnated. As the Christian Coalition's Ralph Reed put it: "We got Joycelyn Elders in a coat and tie." Bob McCallister, a regular commentator on James Dobson's Family News in Focus, made the same point a bit more starkly:

- "President Clinton's nominee for Surgeon General is worse than the one he fired. Dr. Joycelyn Elders had a big mouth; her would-be replacement, Dr. Henry Foster, has actually done the things Elders only talked about.... This gynecologist has blood on his hands."

Following are samples of the Right's attack on Dr. Henry Foster.

Sex Education

Before abortion became the central issue in the nomination fight, the Right criticized Dr. Foster for his stands on sex education and his past participation in Planned Parenthood.

- Gary Bauer of the Family Research Council, a Washington, D.C.-based "pro-family" lobbying group, dubbed Dr. Foster "Elders-lite" because of his support of the "contraceptive philosophy," school-based clinics, and sex education guidelines "which undermine the values of family, marriage and religion [and] promote homosexuality, abortion, and pornography."
- The Life Education and Resource Network (LEARN), an African-American, anti-choice group, held a press conference to publicly denounce Dr. Foster and Planned Parenthood. LEARN director Rev. Johnny Hunter called Planned Parenthood a "racist" organization with a "death gripe [sic] on the Black community" which "targets the reduction of Black people in America." He likened Foster's nomination to "nominating an arsonist to be the Fire Chief."
- At the same press conference, Patrick Mahoney of the Christian Defense Coalition, an off-shoot of Operation Rescue, announced his organization was starting a nationwide campaign to halt Dr. Foster's nomination due to the doctor's "radical and extreme views."
- James Smith of the Southern Baptist Commission's Christian Life Commission continued the spin. "Now we have the 'Condom King,' as opposed to the 'Condom Queen,' Elders," Mr. Smith said. "There is no difference in policy aims, goals, or intentions here. President Clinton chose a Joycelyn Elders who is not quite so bombastic. This is actually more dangerous, more deceptive because they will still be able to campaign for their failed 'safe sex' agenda, but they won't have the burden of having Elders as the poster child for it."

Abortion

Once the issue of abortion was raised, more Religious Right and anti-choice groups joined the growing chorus. Their claims to moderation aside, their opposition to Dr. Foster springs from the same rationale that has led to recent murders of doctors at women's health clinics: that abortion is an evil for which both patient and doctor must be punished. Even though abortion is a legal and ethical procedure, one which millions of American women have found reason to choose, the Right has attacked Dr. Foster for providing such services as part of his broad medical practice:

- The National Right to Life Committee nicknamed Foster "Dr. Abortion," and widely distributed a disputed "transcript" in which Dr. Foster is quoted saying he had performed 700 amniocentesis genetic tests and therapeutic abortions. Dr. Foster has denied making the comment, and, more importantly, has said unequivocally that the statement is not true.
- Judie Brown of the American Life League called Foster "your worst nightmare come true... a ghoul" and charged Foster with having "opted out of the Hippocratic Oath" because of his "dirty little secret" of having performed abortions.
- Ralph Reed asked, "Doesn't the left have any heart surgeons, somebody who saves lives...We need a Surgeon General that defends human life and doesn't take it."
- The Traditional Values Coalition weighed in as well, referring to Dr. Foster as "a Dr. Kevorkian" with "blood on his hands."
- Family Research Council, ignoring the fact that most Americans want abortion to remain safe and legal, claimed that Foster somehow "benefited personally from abortions" and called his views "outside of mainstream American culture." Using the nomination as an opportunity to chastise the Clinton Administration and its "same old song" social policies, FRC's Gary Bauer revealed his true goal: President Clinton has shown himself as the most pro-condom, pro-abortion president in U.S. history. [FRC] will continue to fight the failed social policies that have marked the Clinton Administration no matter whom its spokesman is."

Organizing the grassroots campaign

James Dobson's Focus on the Family quickly took the lead in organizing anti-choice activists to protest the nomination. Dobson, once designated by Jerry Falwell as the leader to carry the Religious Right's culture war into the 1990s, has a media empire whose grassroots reach far surpasses that of other media ministries. On an almost daily basis, he has devoted air time to disparaging the nomination. Dobson has offered a platform on his daily new show, "Family News in Focus," to groups such as the Christian Coalition, Stop Planned Parenthood, the Family Research Council and the American Life

League -- all to criticize Dr. Foster. Listeners are regularly urged to call Focus on the Family headquarters for information on how to choke congressional phone lines with complaints about the nomination.

Dobson even offered a local perspective on the nomination, inviting the Tennessee Family Institute, a local "pro-family" group, air time on two different days to condemn Dr. Foster's teen pregnancy prevention program. A spokesperson for the Institute cautioned parents that Foster's teen program actually distributed birth control "to any interested individual *with a parent's permission*" (emphasis added).

On its daily radio program, Concerned Women for America (CWA) has also blitzed listeners with requests that they call the White House and Senate to protest the nomination. CWA's Janet Parshall, substituting for Christian radio talk show host Mark Gilman, warned listeners that calls were running about evenly for and against the nominee. Far from reining in the anti-abortion rhetoric as some on Capitol Hill have sought to do, Parshall was almost gleeful in her anticipation of a possible battle over the issue of abortion, buoyantly boasting:

- "Let the games begin. I couldn't be happier that they want to make that kind of declarative, choose which side you're going to serve on. It's only going to heat up the controversy.... I remember a whole lot of Republicans saying, the first 100 days we are talking about the Contract With America. Abortion will not even be an issue. Even some presidential wanna-be's said abortion will not be an issue and...bang! Abortion is an issue."

The combined efforts of these and other groups have apparently generated considerable grassroots activity. The Christian Coalition claims that over the course of two days, religious conservatives were able to make 20,000 calls to Congress opposing Foster's nomination.

The Litmus Test and the Promise of Retribution

Even while the Republican leadership on Capitol Hill is working to refocus the debate away from abortion and sex education, Religious Right forces have sharpened the issue by making explicit electoral threats to Republicans who stray from the Religious Right position. Their admonitions were not always subtle.

- Gary Bauer, whose organization was once a part of Focus on the Family and who is still a frequent guest on Dobson's radio program, reminded conservative lawmakers what a vote to confirm Foster would do to their pact with the Religious Right: "We will count on the new U.S. Congress that was elected with the votes of millions of pro-family Americans not to repeat the mistake that was made when Dr. Joycelyn Elders was inflicted on our children."

- Judie Brown called his nomination “a very bad joke,” and predicted that “all hell is going to break loose” if the nomination proceeded.
- 1996 presidential candidate, Pat Buchanan also played the litmus test card with Congress: “The final vote will tell us more about the U.S. Senate than it will about Dr. Foster, about whom we already know enough.”
- According to the Christian Coalition’s Ralph Reed, the Religious Right would only be satisfied with a Surgeon General “who is mainstream, who is pro-family, and pro-life.” In the clearest example of how willing the Right is to use the Foster nomination to push abortion to the forefront of the Religious Right’s agenda, Reed used a speech at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference to warn the Republican Party that religious conservatives would not support a presidential ticket that even hinted at a pro-choice message. He said: “Pro-life and pro-family voters, a third of the electorate, will not support a party that retreats from its noble and historic defense of traditional values and which has a national ticket or a platform that does not share Ronald Reagan’s belief in the sanctity of innocent human life,” said Reed.
- Focus on the Family commentator Bob McCallister specifically spelled out the GOP’s fate if Dr. Foster was confirmed: “If the Republican Senate is not willing to slam dunk this man because of his past then the distinction between the political parties will be abolished.... The one clear difference is social policies. Family values vs. social engineering. If an abortionist and condom pusher gets through the Republican Senate, it’s time to talk third party.”

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Efforts to portray the controversy swirling around Dr. Foster as the outgrowth of concerns about his “credibility” simply do not withstand scrutiny. What drives the opposition to Dr. Foster is not some concern over numbers, but rather fundamental disagreements over sexuality and choice.

In the midst of that battle, the Religious Right movement runs the very real risk that it will so plainly demonstrate its *true* issue agenda that the Republican party’s leadership will be defined by the battle. The likely result would be that the party’s unique opportunity to enact its long-suppressed agenda for reform will fall victim to the political extremism of the very movement that helped bring it in power.



A M E R I C A N M E D I C A L W O M E N ' S A S S O C I A T I O N

**STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
ON BEHALF OF THE NOMINATION OF HENRY FOSTER, JR., MD,
AS U.S. SURGEON GENERAL**

Good morning. I am Dr. Jean Fourcroy, President-Elect of the American Medical Women's Association. I am pleased to join you this morning on behalf of the 13,000 women physicians and medical students who make up the membership of AMWA, an 80-year old national organization dedicated to improving women's health. I am proud to announce AMWA's support of Dr. Henry Foster's nomination as Surgeon General.

Dr. Foster is an experienced and highly regarded physician, educator, administrator and public health expert. These are ideal qualities for the Surgeon General. In the course of his career as an obstetrician-gynecologist, Dr. Foster has provided the full range of reproductive health services for his women patients. These routine gynecological services include taking a full history, performing Pap smears and pelvic examinations, discussing birth control options, treating women with sexually transmitted diseases and providing the full range of pregnancy and childbirth services to meet women's health care needs.

Dr. Foster's commitment to improving the lives of teenagers is particularly noteworthy. He developed age-appropriate and relevant educational programs to help at-risk teenagers delay childbearing. Dr. Foster's "I Have a Future" project assisted hundreds of teenagers in developing into mature adults before assuming the responsibilities of parenthood -- improving not only the quality of life for the teenage girl, but also providing her future children with a better chance of survival and a greatly improved quality of life. His successful efforts were selected as one of President Bush's *Thousand Points of Light*.

As an organization concerned about the quality of women's health care, AMWA applauds Dr. Foster's achievements in providing the full range of reproductive health services that comprise the routine and legal practice of an obstetrician-gynecologist.

I am alarmed that Dr. Foster's outstanding 38-year medical career has been called into question because he performed abortions -- legal medical procedures. I am alarmed because we are allowing a small but vocal minority to threaten the very basis of our democratic society. In this democratic society where the majority of the population supports a woman's right to choose and where abortion has been legal for 22 years, this minority is dictating their own political agenda.

As an organization committed to improving women's health care, AMWA is outraged that Dr. Foster's illustrious 38-year career is being called into question because he provided safe, legal medical care to women patients. AMWA applauds Dr. Foster's contributions, not only to women's health, but to health care and society in general and is proud to support his nomination as the next United States Surgeon General.

Representing Women in Medicine Since 1915