

**Office of the First Lady
Press Office
Files of Lissa Muscatine**

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**FIRST LADY HILLARY CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE UNVEIL NEW
INVESTMENT IN SAFE, EFFECTIVE FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES FOR
AMERICAN WOMEN**

January 22, 1999

Today, in honor of the 26th anniversary of Roe vs Wade, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Vice President Gore met with representatives from the reproductive health community to unveil a series of new steps to prevent unintended pregnancy, including a new multi million dollar initiative to ensure access to safe, high quality family planning services for American women.

MILLIONS OF AMERICAN WOMEN NEED FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

More than 3 million unintended pregnancies occur every year in the United States. Women who use no contraceptives account for almost half of these pregnancies (47%), while the 39 million method users account for 53%. Unintended pregnancies among women who do not use contraception are almost as likely to end in abortion as they are in a birth.

NEW STEPS TOWARDS PROVIDING SAFE, EFFECTIVE FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES FOR AMERICAN WOMEN. This initiative reaffirms the Clinton-Gore Administration's commitment to expanding and enhancing the quality of reproductive health services for all American women. Today, the First Lady and Vice President announced that the Administration is:

- **Unveiling the Largest Increase in Family Planning Services in 15 Years.** The Clinton/Gore Administration's FY 2000 budget includes \$240 million for family planning, a \$25 million increase, and the largest increase in 15 years. These grants fund family planning clinics providing reproductive health services and clinical care to over 5 million low income women. These new funds will be used to prevent over a million unintended pregnancies year by improving the delivery of comprehensive reproductive health services, including STD and cancer screening and prevention, and HIV prevention, education and counseling; providing educational programs that encourage adolescents to postpone of sexual activity; increase the accessibility of contraceptive counseling and services; increasing efforts to provide effective contraceptives to those in need; and developing partnerships with other community based providers to conduct outreach to adolescents at risk.
- **Preventing violence at women's health clinics.** In the wake of escalating violence against women's health clinics that provide abortions, the First Lady and the Vice President will announce the the FY 2000 budget includes \$4.5 million for support additional security enhancements, such as including closed circuit camera systems, improved lighting, motion detectors, alarm systems and bullet-resistant windows for these clinics in order to protect their doctors and nurses. Under this proposal, the Department of Justice would make security assessments and enhancements available to clinics deemed to be at high risk of violence. This Administration is committed to fighting this form of domestic terrorism that has threatened so many clinics and providers. While emphasizing the importance of family planning services to prevent unintended pregnancies, the First Lady and Vice President also emphasized that those women who choose to have an abortion do not have to fear violence.

- **Contributing \$25 million to the UNFPA.** Today, the First Lady and Vice President will announce that the President's FY 2000 budget proposes a \$25 million voluntary contribution to the UNFPA, \$5 million more than the President's FY 1999 budget proposal. The U.S. Contributions to the UN Population Fund is the largest multilateral donor organization in the population sector and concentrates its assistance to countries in the areas of reproductive health and voluntary family planning, population policy and advocacy.
- **Ensuring that Federal employees have access to comprehensive family planning services.** The FY 2000 budget also continues to ensure that the Federal government leads the way as a model health plan by assuring that Federal employees and their families participating in the 300 Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP) have access to contraceptive coverage. This policy provides coverage to approximately 1.2 million women of childbearing age and reduces unwanted pregnancies and the need for abortions by requiring most FEHB plans to offer the full range of contraceptive services. Before this requirement, only 19% of federal health plans covered prescription contraceptives and 10% of the plans offered no contraceptive coverage at all.

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION: STANDING UP FOR A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Today, the First Lady will keynote NARAL's 1999 celebration of the 26th anniversary of Roe v. Wade honoring those who have fought hard to preserve reproductive freedom. Mrs. Clinton's remarks will highlight the accomplishments of NARAL and the reproductive rights movement to protect the right to choose, while pressing for policies that prevent unintended pregnancies and ensure healthy childbirth. She will also call on everyone to double their efforts to educate the public about the need for expanded family planning services, an end to clinic violence, and comprehensive contraceptive coverage.

Her remarks, together with the new steps the Clinton Administration took today, build on the Administration's longstanding commitment to provide American women with safe, high quality family planning services and assure access to choice. This Administration has worked hard to protect a woman's right to choose and to promote safe reproductive health services for women.

- **Creating of the National Task Force on Violence Against Health Care Providers.** Last November, the Justice Department's launched a National Task Force on Violence Against Health Care Providers to coordinate the investigation of violence against women's health care clinics nationwide. The Task Force works closely with local authorities and U.S. Attorneys investigating acts of violence against clinics by: coordinating national investigative efforts; creating an investigative clearinghouse for information related to clinic violence; and providing training to federal, state and local law enforcement personnel.
- **Provided Contraceptive Coverage to More than a Million Women.** The FY99 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains an important policy breakthrough on reproductive choice. The final bill requires the 300 Federal Employees Health Benefits Plans (FEHBP) to cover contraceptive drugs and devices, providing coverage to approximately 1.2 million women of childbearing age. Until now, only 19% of federal health plans covered prescription contraceptives and 10% of the plans offered no contraceptive coverage at all. The Republican Leadership tried to remove this measure, but President Clinton and pro-choice members remained firm.
- **Providing family planning services to low income women.** The Administration has granted Medicaid waivers to expand access to family planning services in 11 states in order to reduce the number of women with mistimed or unwanted pregnancies. These waivers extend family planning services to low-income women of childbearing age who would not otherwise be eligible for Medicaid family planning services, including low-income women who are eligible for Medicaid while pregnant but who lose their eligibility at the end of pregnancy, and low-income women who would become eligible for Medicaid if pregnant, even if they've never been pregnant or Medicaid eligible.

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- **Defeated Parental Consent Restrictions on Contraceptives for Minors.** The House voted to require minors to obtain parental consent prior to receiving any Title X family planning services (this has also been referred to as the Istook amendment). The President's veto threat helped to keep it out of the final bill.
- **Stopped the So-Called "Child Custody Protection" Act.** Senior Clinton Administration Advisers recommended a veto of this bill which would have made it illegal to transport a minor across State lines for the purpose of avoiding parental consent or notification laws. The Clinton Administration, as detailed in the Statement of Administration Policy, was very concerned that the bill did not protect close family members --including grandmothers, aunts and siblings --from criminal and civil liability. Family members could face criminal charges for aiding a relative in distress. The bill also did not protect persons that only provide information, counseling, referral or medical services to the minor from liability. Under a veto threat, the Senate failed to invoke cloture (or end debate) on the Child Custody Protection Act.
- **Upheld the Late Term Abortion Veto.** This year, the House of Representatives voted to override President Clinton's veto of a bill banning certain late-term abortions, known by proponents of the ban as "partial birth abortions." While the House voted to override the President's action, the Senate sustained the veto by a vote of 36-64 --just three votes short of the required two-thirds majority needed to override the veto. President Clinton vetoed the measure in October 1997 because it did not contain an exception that protected the health or life of the woman.
- **Continued to Fight Restrictions on International Family Planning.** The FY99 Omnibus Appropriations Act does not contain the so-called "Mexico City" policy, a provision that denies U.S. funds to international family planning organizations that use their own resources to perform abortions or lobby on abortion policy. The Mexico City restrictions were also included in the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act. President Clinton vetoed this legislation because it contained these unacceptable restrictions.

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
ANNOUNCES NEW EFFORTS TO SUPPORT MENTORING
February 3, 1999**

Today, in the East Room of the White House, the First Lady joined by the Attorney General, will announce several public and private initiatives to support mentoring, a proven strategy that keeps kids on the right track. Mrs Clinton will (1) release a report by the Justice Department detailing the benefits of mentoring; (2) announce new federal grants to communities across the country to support mentoring; (3) announce a new guide that provides practical assistance to mentors; and (4) announce a new Public Service Announcement (PSA) campaign to promote mentoring.

A Huge Demand for Involving Caring Adults in the Lives of Children. In the United States, there are about 13.6 million youths under 18 who are defined "at risk" of getting into trouble; roughly half or about 7 million are termed "very high risk" and share a propensity for delinquency, sexual activity, substance abuse and underachievement in school. According to a 1994 study conducted by the Carnegie Foundation, many adolescents spend 40 percent of their time alone, without adult supervision, or with peers who have a negative influence on them. In addition, statistics show that most juvenile crime takes place between the hours of 2 and 8 pm, and that children are also at much greater risk of being the victim of crime during the hours after school, when they are without adult supervision. All children need responsible adults to guide them towards adulthood, but children at risk are especially in need.

New Report Shows Mentoring Works. The First Lady will release a new report: "Juvenile Mentoring Program --1998 Report to Congress," which provides data on the effectiveness of mentoring programs as well as summarizes the initial evaluation of the Department of Justice Juvenile Mentoring Program (JUMP). According to the report, mentoring programs have been proven to reduce youth crime and help young people succeed in school. It reports that in one study participants with mentors were 46% less likely to start using drugs; 27% less likely to start using alcohol; and almost 33% less likely to hit someone. The study reports that the young people paired with mentors were 50% more likely to attend class; felt more competent about doing school work; skipped fewer classes; showed measurable increases in grade point averages; and demonstrated noticeably improved relations with their peers and family members. The JUMP report also provides useful information on approaches to running mentoring programs as well as identifies issues mentoring organizations face.

Expanding Support for Mentors. The First Lady will announce \$14 million in JUMP grants, that use mentoring as a tool to keep young people in schools and off the streets. JUMP programs operate in a variety of settings -- such as schools, recreation centers, businesses -- and often involve college students, senior citizens, military personnel, business people, doctors, lawyers, government employees, teachers, and law enforcement as mentors. Mentoring activities include tutoring, job training, and community service and provide young people with discipline, guidance, and personal attention. This year, demand far outstripped supply -- there were 424 applications, and only 73 were awarded. These JUMP grants, which range up to \$200,000, will provide more than 7,500 at-risk young people in 37 states with one-on-one mentoring to help keep them in school and away from drugs and crime. In addition, the Department of Justice will provide a \$1.6 million grant to Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, one of the oldest mentoring organizations in the nation.

New Efforts to Recruit and Support Mentors: Mrs. Clinton will also announce the release of a new guide and a new website to promote mentoring by offering practical assistance on how to become a mentor, build trust, define future goals and provide support to young people. The guide, "How to Be a Great Mentor," is authored by *Newsweek*, Kaplan, and the National Mentoring Partnership. The companion web site at www.mentoring.org will provide ongoing support to mentors and mentees, with features including an interactive training curriculum and a bulletin board where mentors can share advice and experiences. The goal of the guide and web site is to help mobilize thousands of adults to touch a young person's life through mentoring.

New Public Service Announcements: The First Lady will also announce a new PSA by Save the Children, in partnership with the Ad Council, that supports their new campaign -- "Do Good: Mentor a Child." The PSA campaign features a toll free number, 1-877-BE-A-MENTOR, which directs callers to their local mentoring organizations, working from a newly created database of mentoring organizations nationwide. Those who call the 1-800 number are connected to an organization in their local area ready to support volunteers and committed to respond in 48 hours. This data base is run by the National Mentoring Partnership and is funded by the Department of Justice. This Save the Children PSA is part of a national media effort to promote mentoring, that has been spearheaded by the Harvard Mentoring Project in collaboration with ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, UPN, and WB, 36 cable networks, and leading Hollywood studios. This new support for mentoring builds on the commitment by ABC, which has promoted mentoring for the past three years as an exclusive message of its "Children's First" campaign, generating more than 150,000 calls from viewers seeking more information on volunteering as a mentor.

An Agenda that Promotes Mentoring: These announcements build upon the President's commitment to support mentoring. As part of his FY 2000 budget, the President proposes to double funding --from \$120 million in FY 99 to \$240 million in FY 2000 -- for the GEAR UP program, in order to reach 381,000 students. This program supports partnerships between high-poverty middle or junior high schools and colleges to help low-income children prepare for and enroll in college. The President has also proposed \$95 million for an "At Risk Youth Initiative," to fund activities such as mentoring and drug and alcohol prevention programs.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 21, 1999

CONTACT: MARSHA BERRY
TOBY GRAFF
JULIE MASON
202/456-2960

**PRESS SCHEDULE OF
FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 22**

Washington, D.C. - - On Friday, January 22, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will attend and deliver remarks at an event in honor of the thirtieth anniversary of NARAL.

EVENT: NARAL 30th Anniversary Luncheon
DATE: January 22 1999
TIME: 12:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Regency Ballroom
Omni Shoreham Hotel
2500 Calvert Street
Washington, D.C.

Press Notes

The event is open to press coverage. No pre-credentialing is required. Press should bring standard press identification to gain access to the event. Lighting and a mult provided. Throw is approximately 75'. Please use main entrance on Calvert Street then follow signs to ballroom.

Pre-set: 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
Final Access: 11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The on-site contact is George Shelton.

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OMB Contact

Jim Bodey
395-3740



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House
REPUBLICAN
Conference

Legislative Digest

September 27, 1994

Dick Armey
Chairman
26th District, Texas

Contract With America

10 bills to be considered during the first 100 days of a Republican-led 104th Congress

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The Personal Responsibility Act-Welfare Reform

H.R. ____

Highlights:

The Personal Responsibility Act overhauls the American welfare system to reduce government dependency, attack illegitimacy, require welfare recipients to enter work programs and cap total welfare spending. The bill's main thrust is to give states greater control over the benefits programs, work programs, and Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) payments and requirements.

Under the bill, the structure for AFDC payments will drastically change. Mothers under the age of 18 may no longer receive AFDC payments for children born out of wedlock and mothers who are ages 18, 19 and 20 can be prohibited by the states from receiving AFDC payments and housing benefits. Mothers must also establish paternity to as a condition for receiving AFDC payments, except in cases of rape and incest. Also, in order to reduce the amount of time families are on welfare, states must begin moving welfare recipients into work programs if they have received welfare for two years. States are given the option to drop families from receiving AFDC benefits after they have received welfare for two years if at least one year has been spent in a work program. To further limit the length of time on AFDC, states must drop families from the program after they have received a total of five years of AFDC benefits.

H.R. ____ allows states to design their own work programs and determine who will be required to participate. Welfare recipients must work an average of 35 hours a week or enroll in work training programs. By the year 2001, 1.5 million AFDC recipients will be required to work.

The bill caps the spending growth of several major welfare programs (AFDC, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and public housing) and consolidates 10 nutrition programs, including food stamps, WIC and the school lunch program, into one discretionary block grant to states.

Finally, the bill grants greater flexibility to states allowing them to design their own work programs and determine who participates in them and can choose to opt out of the current AFDC program by converting their share of AFDC payments into fixed annual block grants.

Background:

In the mid-1960s President Lyndon Johnson launched a war on poverty with the hope of creating a "Great Society." The federal government was mobilized to fight poverty by creating a slew of new federal programs and expanding existing ones, such as AFDC. Established in 1935 under the Social Security Act, AFDC was created to help widows care for their children. It now serves divorced, deserted and never-married individuals and their children. AFDC continues to be the major cash welfare program for families. Federal funds pay at least 50 percent of each state's benefits and administrative costs. In June 1994, enrollment reached 5,028,000 families, just below the record of 5,083,000 set in March 1994. Individual recipients numbered 14.2 million and unemployed two-parent families totaled 362,000. Also, food stamp enrollment in June 1994 was 27.4 million persons—a record high. Although almost half of the mothers who enter AFDC can be expected to leave within

two years, most return. Long-term users often are young, never-married, and high school dropouts; and most AFDC families begin with a birth to a teenager..

In the past few years, the federal government and state governments have tried to change and improve the welfare system. The Clinton Administration campaigned to "end welfare as we know it," though, to date, Congress has not held a vote on its proposal. The administration proposal limits AFDC benefits to two years, during which employment services would be provided to recipients. Nearly 20 welfare reform bills have been introduced in the 103d Congress, including three major proposals offered by Republican members:

- * **The GOP Leadership Welfare Reform Bill (H.R. 3500)** - After two years on AFDC (or less at a state's option), welfare recipients must work 35 hours per week in a private or public sector job. It also requires mothers to establish paternity before receiving AFDC benefits, denies AFDC benefits to parents under age 18, and denies increased AFDC benefits for having additional children while on welfare — unless a state enact laws to exempt itself from any of these requirements.
- * **The Real Welfare Reform Act (H.R. 4566)** - This measure prohibits AFDC, food stamps, and public housing to unmarried mothers under age 21 (the age limit is raised to 25 in 1998); requires that paternity to be established as a condition for receiving AFDC, food stamps and public housing; provides a \$1,000 pro-marriage tax credit, requires 50 percent of AFDC recipients to work by 1996; requires single able-bodied food stamp recipients to work for benefits; and freezes the rate of growth in several welfare programs at 3.5 percent per year.
- * **The Welfare and Teenage Pregnancy Reduction Act (H.R. 1293)** - This measure freezes AFDC at current funding levels and returns the program to the states in the form of block grants, giving states maximum discretion to design their own welfare-to-work programs. The bill also prohibits AFDC benefits to parents under age 18 and requires that paternity be established in order to receive AFDC benefits.

Provisions:

Reducing Illegitimacy

The bill is designed to diminish the number of teenage pregnancies and illegitimate births. It prohibits AFDC payments and housing benefits to mothers under age 18 who give birth to out-of-wedlock children. The state has the option of extending this prohibition to mothers ages 18, 19, and 20. The savings generated from this provision to deny AFDC to minor mothers (and to mothers age 18 to 20 if the state elects that option) is returned to the states in the form of block grants to provide services — but not cash payments — to help these young mothers with illegitimate children. The state will use the funds for programs to reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies, to promote adoption, to establish and operate orphanages, to establish and operate residential group homes for unwed mothers, or for any purpose the state deems appropriate. None of the funds may be used for abortion services or abortion counseling.

The bill also includes a number of other provisions to reduce illegitimacy. While AFDC is prohibited to mothers ages 17 and younger who have children out of wedlock, mothers age 18 who give birth

Family Reinforcement Act of 1995

H.R. ____

Summary:

H.R. ____ (1) protects parents' rights to supervise their children's participation in any federally funded program and shield them from federally sponsored surveys that involve intrusive questioning, (2) requires states to give "full faith and credit" to child support orders issued by the courts or the administrative procedures of other states, (3) provides a refundable tax credit of up to \$5,000 for families adopting a child, (4) strengthens penalties for child pornography and criminal sexual conduct involving minors, and (5) provides a \$500 tax credit for families caring for a dependent elderly parent or grandparent.

Family Privacy Protection

The bill requires parental consent for the participation of a minor in any federally funded survey or analysis regarding (1) parental political affiliations; (2) any mental or psychological problems in the family; (3) family or individual sexual behavior and attitudes; (4) any illegal or self-incriminating behavior; (5) privileged relationships with lawyers, physicians or clergymen; (6) any household income information other than that required by law for federal program participation; (7) religious beliefs; and (8) appraisals of other individuals with whom the minor has had a familial relationship.

Child Support Enforcement

H.R. ____ requires states to give "full faith and credit" to child support orders from other states. It provides federal assistance in developing a uniform child support/visitation order in order to streamline interstate enforcement. Finally, the bill requires noncustodial parents who receive state aid to participate in a state job-search program if they have child support arrearages.

Adoption Assistance

The bill establishes a refundable tax credit of up to \$5,000 for adoption expenses such as adoption fees, court costs and attorney fees. The tax credit is phased out for incomes beginning at \$60,000.

Eldercare Assistance

H.R. ____ provides a \$500 refundable tax credit for individuals who care for a parent or grandparent at home.

Child Protection

The bill increases sentences for sexual offenses against children and closes certain loopholes in federal laws protecting children. Today, computers with their enhanced graphics and rapid communication are increasingly used by pornographers. To address this, the bill increases federal sentencing guidelines by two levels for the use of a computer in the shipment of pornography.



Planned Parenthood®
Federation of America, Inc.

October 20, 1994

Karen Finey
Office of the First Lady
The White House

Dear Karen:

At Ann Lewis's suggestion, I'm forwarding to you some information on the press event we are holding this morning to expose a hidden "gag rule" in the "Contract with America." Ann wanted to make sure that the First Lady would be aware of the content of the "contract" in the event that she is queried by the press on it.

As you will see, the new gag rule is found in the "Personal Responsibility Act" of the "contract" and would forbid AFDC funds to be used for abortion counseling or services. It is not, however, a renewal of the previous gag rule, which applied to Title X funding. Nonetheless, the result will be similar: to deny poorer women information on all their legal options.

If I can be of any assistance, I can be reached at 202-785-3351. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Mona Miller
Media Coordinator



Planned Parenthood®
Federation of America, Inc.

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 20, 1994

CONTACT:
Mona Miller: 202-785-3351

**STATEMENT BY PAMELA J. MARALDO, Ph.D., PRESIDENT
PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION OF AMERICA
PLANNED PARENTHOOD ACTION FUND
Re: Hidden Gag Rule in "Contract With America"**

I am speaking today as president of the nation's largest provider of reproductive health care and as a nurse.

As president, I know the destructive impact political interference can have on our ability to serve our clients. The millions of women and men who come through our doors each year count on Planned Parenthood to provide accurate and complete information about their medical options. That relationship of trust between health care provider and client is the cornerstone of our 78-year history.

As a nurse, I am outraged that politicians would try to violate this trust, and then hide their intent in fraudulent legislation.

To every American considering Rep. Newt Gingrich's so-called "Contract With America," I say beware: there's deception in the fine print, and it's American women who will suffer the consequences.

Buried within this "contract" is language that would prevent doctors and other health professionals from giving women uncensored information about all of their medical options when faced with an unintended pregnancy. In effect, the document would resurrect the Reagan/Bush era gag rule, which rightly incurred the outrage of a nation. The American

- more -



people believe that the abortion decision should be made between a woman and her doctor — not among a woman, her doctor, and her congressman.

That's why the designers of the contract tried to conceal their real intent in rhetoric. They knew that if they were honest about their intent to impose another gag rule, the American people would never buy into it. But make no mistake: with their "Contract With America," they have launched a renewed assault on doctors' freedom of speech and women's access to quality health care.

It is an act of cynicism that the gag rule would be hidden beneath the heading of "Personal Responsibilities Act." Planned Parenthood knows that true responsibility begins with providing women with full information about their reproductive options.

Planned Parenthood today calls on the over 300 legislators and candidates who signed the contract to withdraw their support. We pledge to do all in our power to defeat this anti-woman, anti-health care legislation if it should go before Congress.

Americans must read the fine print and stop this gag rule now to ensure that women will always have the right to choose.

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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 165 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.

NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT BY JUDITH M. DESARNO, PRESIDENT

NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 20, 1994

My name is Judith DeSarno. I am President and CEO of the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association. And I am here today representing the vast majority of the federally-funded family planning clinics in the United States. Our network of 4,000-plus clinics provide comprehensive family planning and other primary and preventive health care services to more than 4 million low-income women each year.

I am also here today to express our outrage that some of the Republican candidates running for Congress this year have signed a pledge to put the Gag Rule back on the legislative agenda. Since 1988 when the Reagan Administration first proposed this policy, the public has been clear about its opposition to the Gag Rule, and Congress overwhelmingly has voted against its implementation. After years of battling the Gag Rule, the family planning community had assumed that it was widely accepted that barring health care professionals from providing women with complete medical information was -- and still is -- very bad public policy. We are stunned that this provision is advocated in the Contract with America, but we believe pro-choice Republicans who have signed the Contract can mitigate their mistake by insisting that the Gag Rule provisions are stripped from this platform.

This new Gag Rule is offered in the context of a welfare reform proposal known as the "Personal Responsibility Act". I would strongly suggest to the authors of this document that rather than focus heavily on forcing a poor, young pregnant woman to get married as a way to eliminate "illegitimate births" that they provide a significant funding boost to the family planning program. It is a much wiser investment to pay to prevent an unplanned or unintended pregnancy than it is to address the issue after the fact.

Once and for all -- let's get rid of the Gag Rule and instead make a pledge that next year's legislative agenda will include taking action to assure all women in the United States that they will have access to the family planning services they need -- including complete and uncensored information. Thank you.

The National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA) is a nonprofit membership organization established to improve and expand the delivery of voluntary and culturally appropriate 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 and freestanding clinics; Planned Parenthood clinics; family planning councils; and individual providers, researchers, and consumers. Our members provide services to over four million low income women and adolescents yearly at four thousand clinics.

... \$10 billion in tax
... Housing and Supplemental
... women and children



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

NBWHP PRESS RELEASE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S "CONTRACT WITH AMERICA"

The National Black Women's Health Project would like to publicly announce our opposition to the Republican Party's "Contract with America". Although we believe that this "contract" is nothing more than election year rhetoric, we think that some of the provisions in the "contract" outline very dangerous predictions of what is to come with the election of more anti-woman, anti-choice Members of Congress.

Several provisions of the "contract" were not talked about by Republicans. We would like to expose the contract's fine print to the American public thereby giving them the opportunity to decide if this is a contract that they would like to sign on to for the next 2 years.

Most of the hidden provisions describe the Republican's plan for welfare reform legislation in the next session of Congress. We believe that this proposal is punitive towards poor women and children and will dramatically impact the survivability of poor families. This proposal, if enacted, will have a devastating effect on poor women's ability to care for their children.

Some of the "highlights in fine print" include:

- Under the Republican's so-called "Personal Responsibility Act", unmarried teenage mothers and their children would no longer be eligible for AFDC payments or housing benefits. States would have the option of denying the same resources to mothers up to the age of 20.
- States would be given special funds to establish and operate orphanages.
- States would have the option to deny AFDC benefits to families after 2 years. Mothers and their children would also have a life-time limit of 5 years on AFDC.
- Teenaged mothers would have a residency requirement.

While the Republican's "Contract with America" will give over \$110 billion in tax breaks to the rich, it caps the spending for programs such as public housing and Supplemental Security Income. It also would consolidate nutrition programs for poor women and children such as the school lunch program, WIC and food stamps.

Like the Charles Murray approach to welfare reform, the contract plans to attempt to reduce illegitimacy by denying mothers and children necessary resources in which to feed, clothe and house their children, while giving states special funds to establish and operate orphanages for those children whose mothers can not afford to care for them. This Draconian approach to welfare reform is cruel to women and is cruel to children. Moreover, the American people would never accept an approach to welfare reform which would take children away from poor families by placing them in orphanages.

Other provisions hidden in the fine print of the contract include language which would prohibit states from using funds to provide poor women with abortion services or counseling.

While the NBWHP would agree that there must be an intensive overhaul of the welfare system, we do not believe that the punitive measures proposed in the Republican "Contract with America" will help to rectify problems with the current system. If anything their proposal will exacerbate existing problems with the welfare system by making it impossible for the poor to care for their children. In addition, do we really want a contract that could replace parents -- mothers and fathers -- with orphanages.

The NBWHP rejects this contract and we are sure that the American people will do the same.

NBWHP is a national self-help and advocacy organization committed to improving the health of Black women, particularly poor women. NBWHP has 150 local self-help groups and chapters in 30 states.

PRESS CONTACT:
Lisa Diane White
(404)-758-9590

ACLU NEWS

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

Washington Office • 122 Maryland Avenue, N.E. • Washington, D.C. 20002 • 202/544-1681
Laura Murphy Lee, Director

For further information contact:

Elizabeth Symonds
(202) 675-2337

Phil Gutis
(212) 944-9800 Ext. 410

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 20, 1994

ACLU CONDEMNS CAMPAIGN PLEDGE TO REINSTATE "GAG RULE"

Statement of Elizabeth Symonds, ACLU Legislative Counsel

In a hostile and backward-looking attempt to deny women's reproductive freedom, a number of electoral candidates have signed onto a pledge, the "Contract with America," to revive the "gag rule." The original "gag rule," a Reagan Administration regulation, barred federally funded family planning programs from providing any abortion referrals or counseling. At a time when many Americans are demanding greater access to medical care in general, it is ironic and deplorable that these candidates again want to deny essential reproductive health care.

The current proposal would designate certain federal block grants to assist teenage mothers, but prohibits the use of these funds for abortion counseling. This "gag rule" would mean that staff in these programs would not be allowed to discuss abortion with a client even if the client asked for information. Such government-imposed censorship is antithetical to the guarantee of free speech in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

-MORE-

ACLU National Headquarters: 132 West 43rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036 212/944-9800
Nadine Strossen, President • Kenneth B. Clark, Chair, National Advisory Council • Ira Glasser, Executive Director

The American Civil Liberties Union fought the original "gag rule" in the context of restrictions on Title X family planning funds. In Rust v. Sullivan, a 1991 United States Supreme Court case, the ACLU argued that the regulation violated constitutional guarantees of free speech and privacy by silencing speech disfavored by the government and by frustrating women's ability to obtain the complete information necessary to exercise reproductive choice. More than 200 organizations and 100 individuals filed friend-of-the-court briefs to protest the unfairness of the "gag rule." Nonetheless, the battle against this harmful regulation was not won in the courts, but rather by means of President Clinton's Executive Order rescinding the regulation in 1993.

The current proposal to revive the "gag rule" would do a grave disservice to women and their families. The Constitution affords women the right to decide whether to carry a pregnancy to term or to end it. When determining whether or not to continue a pregnancy, women weigh a host of medical, familial, religious, economic, and social considerations. To make the optimal choice for their health and circumstances, they need complete information about all of the medical and legal options available to them. The government should not dictate or influence women's reproductive choices by censoring relevant information.

-ENDIT-



PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY ACTION FUND

Your Voice Against Intolerance

October 20, 1994

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

'GAG RULE' IN REPUBLICAN 'CONTRACT' REFLECTS RIGHT-WING CENSORSHIP STRATEGY, PEOPLE FOR SAYS

The Republican "Contract with America"'s attempt to revive the "gag rule" on abortion counseling reflects a broader right-wing censorship strategy, People For the American Way Action Fund Public Policy Director Leslie Harris said today. The Contract's proposed "Personal Responsibility Act" would reinstate the "gag rule," a Reagan-era ban on abortion counseling in medical facilities that receive federal funds. The "gag rule" was lifted last year by President Clinton.

Following is the text of Harris' remarks:

We are here to warn America: this Contract promoted by Congressman Newt Gingrich, and supported so strongly by right-wing political groups, is designed to limit free speech rights. It will interfere with the doctor-patient relationship. Americans should know that Religious Right groups are pleased because this Contract would revive the 'gag rule' imposed during the Reagan-Bush years. The 'gag rule' imposes government censorship on the most personal and private conversations between a woman and her doctor. This isn't government getting out of the way of our lives -- it's government getting in the way of our lives. We're ready to mobilize citizen networks across this country to make sure this never becomes law again.

The revival of the 'gag rule' is no surprise. It reflects a broader strategy embraced by the Religious Right: if you can't win it, censor it. When they fail to take away women's reproductive choice in the legislatures or the courts, they invoke censorship in the clinics. When they fail to take away civil rights from gays and lesbians, they try to censor or ban books and newspapers about gay issues in the public schools and public libraries. When they fail to make a dent in the strong public support for comprehensive sex education, they try to censor this life-saving information in our schools. Across the board, right-wing groups are using censorship as a political tactic to advance their agenda.

-- MORE --

2000 M Street NW
Suite 400
Washington DC 20036

202 467 4999
202 293 2672 / Fax



This censorship 'Contract' is not a contract with America. It is a contract with those who fear what our democracy values most: the free exchange of ideas and information. The American people will not support it, and if the 'gag rule' issue ever comes to a vote, many pro-choice and pro-free speech Republicans who signed this so-called 'Contract' will break it.

The People For the American Way Action Fund is a 300,000-member nonpartisan constitutional liberties organization. In 1991, the Action Fund ran a television advertising campaign against the 'gag rule.'

ADA

Americans for Democratic Action, Inc.

1625 K Street, N.W. • Suite 1150 • Washington, DC 20006 • (202) 785-5980 • FAX (202) 785-5969

FOR RELEASE October 20, 1994

CONTACT: Amy Isaacs 202-785-5980

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION GIVES GINGRICH "BARNUM AWARD"

CALLS 'CONTRACT WITH AMERICA' TRAVESTY

ADA national director Amy Isaacs, today declared Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-GA) the P.T. Barnum of American politics. "Gingrich, who along with his conservative Republican colleagues, presented the nation with the GOP's 'Contract With America' seems to believe along with Barnum that 'There's a sucker born every minute,'" said Isaacs

The Republicans vision for America unveiled on September 27 would result in a return to the 19th Century in terms of protecting the rights of women and reproductive choice. Yet, the Republicans aware of the bad publicity resulting from their 1992 national convention intolerance, have chosen to downplay this aspect of what, more appropriately might be called their "Contract on America."

Isaacs called on the American people to not be suckered with election year rhetoric. She said she has faith that they will go to the polls on November 8 to let Newt Gingrich and his cohorts know that the rights of women will not be discarded so easily.

"The GOP's 'Contract on America' is an horrendous leap back for women of all backgrounds and would negate their rights to reproductive freedom for which we have fought so hard in the past years," said Isaacs.

And, women seeking information about family planning options would be given only limited information because counseling which included information about abortion would be prohibited. The Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances law, passed in 1993, would be gutted and anti-choice protesters would have freedom to use any or all tactics they wished to prevent women from obtaining an abortion and doctors from performing the procedure.

The family values envisioned in the Contract do not reflect the reality of life for many families. All Americans, whatever their race, residence or economic status deserve a full range of family planning options free from the free of harassment or intimidation. "Gingrich and his friends, quite simply, don't understand that basic principle," said Isaacs.

Since 1947, Americans for Democratic Action has pioneered in the development and promotion of a national liberal agenda of public policy formulation and action. Our members are citizens from every state in the nation, working in sustained political and legislative action to help formulate and achieve significant social change through government action.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER DENOUNCES GAG RULE IN THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT AS HARMFUL TO WOMEN

WASHINGTON, D.C., (October 20, 1994) -- The National Women's Law Center today denounced a gag rule on abortion-related counseling in so-called "family values" legislation outlined in the "Personal Responsibility Act" to be introduced by some lawmakers when the 104th Congress convenes in January.

"This measure, which proports to restore the American family and reduce illegitimacy and welfare dependence will, in fact, harm women and their families. The gag rule also violates the trust of the doctor/patient relationship in not allowing health care professionals to counsel their patients properly as to their family planning choices," Marcia Greenberger, Co-president of the National Women's Law Center said.

The bill, which seeks to provide grant funds for pregnancy prevention and to encourage adoption and establish orphanages to qualifying states, would prohibit the use of these funds for any abortion-related family planning and counseling. "This provision places health care service providers in the precarious position of having to breach professional ethics by withholding information, or loosing desperately needed funds," Greenberger noted.

"This gag rule provision rolls back the clock to the unacceptable constraints on abortion counseling imposed under the Reagan and Bush Administrations," she added, "constraints which past Congresses consistently voted to overturn and which the Clinton Administration repealed."

"This misguided policy would effectively place the federal government in the role of mandating personal choice, placing a strangle-hold on personal freedoms under the mistaken guise of restoring family values," Greenberger concluded.

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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



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Gabrielle Lange
Gillian Ray
202/785-7723

AAUW OPPOSES THE "GAG RULE" IN "CONTRACT WITH AMERICA"

STATEMENT BY ANN CHIPLEY, AAUW ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR

October 20, 1994 - The American Association of University Women (AAUW) has long supported a woman's right to receive counseling on all reproductive health care options. We believe that any attempt to federally restrict information by imposing a 'gag rule' on health care professionals is a violation of the doctor/patient relationship.

The "gag rule" in the proposed "Contract with America" is a contract America cannot afford. Reviving a discredited Bush administration mandate under a new guise does not serve the American people. Health care professionals must be allowed to discuss the full range of reproductive services, including abortion. America does not want to revisit old battles.

It is unrealistic to talk about establishing orphanages and group homes for unwed teens and adoption to solve the problem of the growing number of births out of wedlock and not acknowledge the need for family planning and abortion counseling.

AAUW believes that women must never again be threatened with the loss of confidential, comprehensive reproductive health care. In 1992, Congress overwhelmingly approved legislation to ensure that counselors in federal family planning clinics would be allowed to provide complete and full information to patients without governmental interference. We must not go back to a time when providers are forced to choose between breaching professional ethics by withholding information or breaking the law and losing needed federal funds.

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Fyi -
Noreen



WASHINGTON FEMINIST FAXNET

A Project of
The Center for Advancement of Public Policy
Martha Burk, President
Fax (202) 265-6245 Voice (202) 797-0606

October 28, 1994

GET READY FOR HALLOWEEN...

... by looking up the telephone numbers of your local television stations. In Hollywood jargon, "women in jep" [jeopardy] themes will dominate the tube this weekend. Halloween slasher movies are particularly bad, interspersing scantily clad female bodies with scenes of violence against women. As a bonus, the women are usually portrayed as helpless weaklings. Stations can't know you object if you don't call. Let 'em know all of TV land is not horny, adolescent lads.

ET TU, HILLARY?

In an interview with *Newsweek* just out, Hillary Clinton backs away from abortion rights and gets conciliatory with the religious rabids. She says the secular press has done a "great disservice" to the religious right, and that abortion is "wrong," but should not be criminalized. Molly Yard, feminist leader and former president of NOW, suggests calling Melanne Verveer, Hillary's Deputy Chief of Staff, to sound an alarm to Hillary that this with this message: *"The Clinton administration has been enormously helpful to a progressive women's agenda, and we want them to be re-elected. That won't happen if they back away from their base of abortion rights supporters and toward a right wing that will NEVER support them anyway,"* says Yard. Voice your opinion to Verveer at 202-456-6266.

FORGET IT GIRLS, THIS CYBERSPACE STUFF IS FOR GUYS ONLY

Prodigy Services, the online information network with the largest percentage of female subscribers (40%), has just announced a new business service - *targeted at the male business professional*. They plan to market the service under a different name, and tap into Usenet, a part of the Internet that features mostly benign discussion groups but also hundreds of sex-related topics, including pornographic pictures (Prodigy will let parents block Usenet).

As if to reinforce that they're serious about defining women out of their business services, Prodigy is co-sponsoring a high powered 3 day "Media Alliances Conference," featuring a program with 100% male presenters. If you're using Prodigy, it might be time to disconnect and tap into the Women's Information Resource and Exchange (WIRE) 800-210-9999. To tell Prodigy what you think of their new strategy and all-male confab, fax them at 609-921-2112.