

January 13, 2006

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

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Mr. President:

The Commission on the Status of Women works within the United Nations system to promote women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. As you know, the objective of the Commission is to promote implementation of international commitments to work toward the advancement of women and the full enjoyment of their rights.

With the appointment of Ellen Sauerbrey as Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees, and Migration, you will now be appointing a new U.S. Representative to the Commission on the Status of Women. We write to encourage you to ensure that your nominee have both the requisite knowledge of and demonstrated experience working in diplomatic settings necessary to advancing equality, justice and freedom for all the world's people.

Gaps in equality between women and men still exist in too many areas. We urge you to appoint someone that has a proven track record on women's rights in key areas such as health, legal, and property rights, violence against women, women and political participation, and poverty. She should also be recognized by the broad international community as a leader in the field, have deep knowledge of human rights instruments, and commitment to taking action to close the gaps and ensure human rights and equality for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Advocates for Youth
Americans for UNFPA
Catholics for a Free Choice
Center for Health and Gender Equity
Center for Women Policy Studies
Feminist Majority
Guttmacher Institute
Health GAP (Global Access Project)
International Planned Parenthood
Federation/Western Hemisphere Region
International Women's Health Coalition
Ipas

National Council of Jewish Women
Planned Parenthood Federation of
America
Population Action International
Population Connection
Population Institute
SIECUS
Women's Environment & Development
Organization
United Methodist Church, General
Board of Church & Society
United Nations Foundation