Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 2, 2002

Senator Tom Daschle
Majority Leader
United States Senate
509 Senate Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510-4103

Senator Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman, Subcommittee on Foreign Operations
United States Senate
125 Senate Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510-6031

Senator Joseph Biden
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
446 Senate Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510-6225

Dear Senators,

As you may remember, we were strongly opposed to President Bush's first act in office when he reinstated the Global Gag Rule. However, we were heartened when he publicly expressed his commitment to family planning and when he submitted a FY02 budget request for $25,000,000 for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). We were also encouraged when Secretary Colin Powell submitted testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee expressing that "UNFPA does invaluable work" and then again when this Administration gave a voluntary contribution of $600,000 to UNFPA in supplemental funds to help the women of Afghanistan.

This is why we read with great alarm in the Saturday, June 29 *The Washington Post* that the Bush Administration plans to invoke Kemp-Kasten to eliminate funding for the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA). Sadly, the Bush Administration seems to be making harsh political decisions on the backs of our world's poorest and neediest citizens – women and children. In fact, Karen Hughes isn't even out the door and Karl Rove has eliminated any appearance of helping women.

We applaud you for your strong words of support for UNFPA as reported in the June 29th *Post* which is why we write you today. As you know, the investigative team that was sent to China for a two-week review of the UNFPA programs on May 13, 2002, completed and submitted a final report of its findings to the Bush Administration. However, the Administration has refused to release this report, despite the fact that the report was to be made available to

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Congress by the end of June. We have since learned from the June 29th *Post* article that:

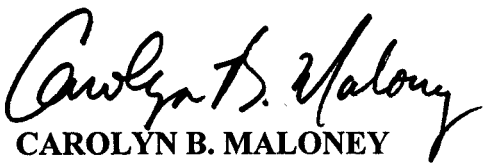
> "The White House Domestic Policy Council drafted a memo to the president based on the delegation's finds [which stated that]... the team found the U.N. agency had no direct knowledge or involvement in China's coercive policies..."

It is unconscionable that the President would invoke the prohibitive language of Kemp-Kasten when his own Administration found that the UNFPA was not involved in any wrongdoing in China and publicly stated their commitment to international family planning. Now, after unsubstantiated claims made by one right-wing fringe group, the Administration plans to eliminate funding by mid-July. This Administration is clearly delaying their plan to invoke Kemp-Kasten until after Congress will have completed the FY02 Supplemental Appropriations bill and will be unable to affect change on this tragic decision.

As a result, we urge you to subpoena the White House Domestic Policy Council memo prepared for the President as well as the final report completed by the investigative team so that we can review the findings ourselves and have the necessary documents as we go to Conference on the FY02 Supplemental Appropriations bill.

The President has put the lives of millions of women and children at risk, and we believe we must do everything in our power to reverse his tragic decision. We look forward to working with you on this issue of utmost seriousness and thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress