Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 20, 2002

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

Dear President Bush:

We are writing on a matter of great urgency that affects the lives of women and children around the world. Your Administration's decision to withhold the $34 million appropriated by the U.S. Congress for the United Nations Population Fund is having a negative impact on the life-saving work of this U.N. agency. Because of this funding delay, there will likely be an increase in maternal and child deaths, unintended pregnancies and induced abortions around the world.

We hope that you understand the need and importance of funding for this U.N. agency. We were gratified by your including funding for the U.N. Population Fund in your FY 2002 budget request, and were pleased when you signed the FY02 Foreign Operations Budget this past January which included $34 million for UNFPA.

Secretary of State Colin Powell testified before Congress that UNFPA:

> "... does invaluable work through its programs in maternal and child health care, voluntary family planning, screening for reproductive tract cancers, breast-feeding promotion, and HIV/AIDS prevention. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to secure the funding necessary for UNFPA to continue these activities. We will also work closely with the Congress on other areas of concern, including oversight of UNFPA's program in China."

As you can imagine, we were dismayed by your Administration's decision to withhold this life-saving funding based on one group's allegations regarding the U.N. Population Fund's work in China. We understand that in response to these allegations, your Administration sent a three person team, headed by former Ambassador Bill Brown, to China to review the U.N. Population Fund program.

We are confident that this team, like the over 60 diplomatic observers who have already visited the program, will affirm that the U.N. Population Fund is promoting human rights and volunteerism and pushing the Chinese government to respect the fundamental rights of their citizens. We understand that the China investigation team has completed their work and submitted their final report to the White House several weeks ago. We would urge you to review this report quickly so that these vital funds can be released as soon as possible.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Thursday, June 20th marks the second annual World Refugee Day, and this year the emphasis is on women. Secretary Powell will be one of several speakers kicking off events here in Washington. Mr. President, as someone who cares deeply about the rights of women around the world, we know you are troubled by the incredible impact this delay is having on women and children. We know that your Administration is seeking a swift resolution to this funding delay and we look forward to reading the team's report and hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

JIM GREENWOOD
Member of Congress

NITA LOWEY
Member of Congress

DOUG OSE
Member of Congress