

Media Release

National Council of Women's Organizations
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National Council of Women's Organizations Opposes Roberts Confirmation

(September 1, 2005, Washington, DC) The National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO), the oldest and largest coalition of the nation's women's groups, representing 200 groups and 10 million women, called on the U.S. Senate today to reject the nomination of Judge John Roberts to the Supreme Court.

"It has become clear in the past few weeks that Judge Roberts has throughout his career consistently urged narrow interpretations of the law that would undermine women's rights to equal opportunity" said Martha Burk, NCWO Chair. "It is now well known that Judge Roberts is opposed to abortion rights and would weaken or eliminate Title IX. But we are hearing less about his record of siding with employers against the interests of employees -- a point of view that could be devastating to working women."

"Judge Roberts has argued that cost alone is justification for denying women equal treatment in job training and employment. It is not in the best interests of American women to have a judge on the Supreme Court who has argued that sex discrimination is acceptable if the discriminating organization is operating on a 'tight budget'" said Burk.

Leaders of prominent NCWO member groups joined Burk in denouncing Roberts. "The nation has a right to expect that confirmation of the next person to fill a seat on the Supreme Court will be contingent on a demonstrated commitment to protecting the rights and freedoms of every American," said Phyllis Snyder, President of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW). "Unfortunately, Judge Roberts has chosen in his career to erode fundamental rights, rather than defend them, and NCJW believes he should not be confirmed to a lifetime seat on the highest court in the land."

"Everything we know about Judge Roberts' record indicates that he will be a solid vote against women's rights, civil rights, and *Roe v. Wade*," said Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority. "His appointment has the potential to undo 40 years of progress. That is why the Feminist Majority is opposing Roberts for the Supreme Court."

Dr. Dorothy Height, Chair and President Emerita of the National Council of Negro Women declared: "Historically, and until passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the advancement of women and minorities came largely through the courts. Our country cannot afford to lose these gains. Judge Roberts' record undermines the confidence that all citizens need to have in the nation's highest court."

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The National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit coalition of more than 200 women's organizations across the nation collectively representing over ten million women. For years, NCWO has convened the leadership of major women's organizations dedicated to focusing on national issues and public policy agendas affecting women.

Visit our web site: www.womensorganizations.org

NCWO Member Organizations*

9to5 Nat. Assc. of Working Women
 AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund
 African-American Women's Clergy
 Alexandria Commission For Women
 Alhaji Kemokoh Foundation on African and American Women
 AIDS Awareness Campaign
 Alice Paul Institute, Inc.
 American Assc. of University Women
 American College Of Nurse-Midwives
 American Medical Women's Assc.
 American Physical Therapy Assc., Women's Initiatives
 American Women In Radio and Television
 Ariadne Institute for the Study of Myth and Ritual
 Assc. For Women In Science
 Assc. of Academic Women's Health Programs
 Assc. Of Reproductive Health Professionals
 Black Women United For Action
 Black Women's Agenda, Inc.
 Break the Chain Campaign
 Business & Professional Women/USA
 Catholics For A Free Choice
 Center For Advancement Of Public Policy
 Center for Health and Gender Equity
 Center For Policy Alternatives
 Center for Reproductive Rights
 Center For The Childcare Workforce
 Center for Women Policy Studies
 Child Care Action Campaign
 Choice USA
 Christian Women Of Elegance
 Church Women United
 Circle of Women United For All Concerns
 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
 Coalition Of Labor Union Women
 CodePINK: Women for Peace
 CommonWell Institute InterNat. Women
 Cornell University Institute for Women & Work
 DC Rape Crisis Center
 Department For Professional Employees, AFL-CIO
 Dialogue on Diversity, Inc.
 Digital Sisters, Inc.
 Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy, and Action
 Economist's Policy Group on Women's Issues
 Equal Rights Advocates
 Equality Now
 ERA Campaign Network
 ERA Summit
 FAIR Fund
 Federally Employed Women
 Females United Network
 Feminist Majority Foundation
 Financial Women InterNat.
 Friends of the Missouri Women's Council
 Gender Action
 Gender Public Advocacy Coalition
 GenderWatchers
 Girls Incorporated
 HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America
 HealthOnStage
 Inclusive Security: Women Waging Peace
 Institute For Health & Aging
 Institute For Women's Policy Research
 InterAction-Commission On The Advancement Of Women
 International Black Women for Wages for Housework
 International Center For Research On Women
 International Women's Media Foundation
 International Women's Democracy Center
 Jewish Women International
 Jewish Women's Coalition, Inc.
 Law Students for Choice
 Legal Momentum
 Low-Income Families
 Empowerment Through Education - LIFETIME
 MANA, A National Latina Organization
 Manasota Women's Roundtable
 McAuley Institute
 Million Mom March United with the Brady Campaign
 Ms. Foundation For Women
 NARAL
 National Council Of Jewish Women
 National Council Of Women of the United States, Inc.
 National Hook-up Of Black Women
 National Abortion Federation
 National Alliance For Caregiving
 National Asian Women's Health Organization
 National Asian-Pacific American Women's Forum
 National Association for Female Executives
 National Association of Commissions for Women
 National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
 National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses
 National Association of Women Business Owners
 National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
 National Committee of Women for a Democratic Iran
 National Committee on Pay Equity
 National Congress of Black Women
 National Council for Research on Women
 National Council of Negro Women
 National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
 National Foundation for Women Legislators
 National Hispana Leadership Institute
 National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
 National Network of Abortion Funds
 National Organization for Women
 National Partnership for Women & Families
 National Research Center (NRC) for Women & Families
 National Woman's Party
 National Women's Health Network
 National Women's History Museum
 National Women's Studies Association
 National Women's Hall of Fame
 National Women's History Project
 National Women's Law Center
 National Women's Political Caucus NETWORK
 Network Of East-West Women
 New Life Ministries
 Nontraditional Employment for Women
 Organization of Chinese-American Women, Inc.
 ORUWOCA, Inc.
 OWL: The Voice of Midlife and Older Women
 Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc.
 Project Kid Smart
 Public Leadership Education Network
 Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
 Sister to Sister: Everyone Has a Heart Foundation, Inc.
 Sisters Supporting Sisters, Inc.
 Society for Women's Health Research
 Start Smart America
 The Stories Center
 The WAGE Project
 The Women's Center
 The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future
 Third Wave Foundation
 U.S. Committee For UNIFEM
 U.S. Women Connect
 United American Nurses, AFL-CIO
 Utah Women's Alliance for Building Community (UWABC)
 Veteran Feminists of America
 Vital Voices Global Partnership
 Voters for Choice
 Wages for Housework Campaign
 Washington Area Women's Foundation
 Westside Women's Organization
 White House Project
 Wider Opportunities For Women
 WINTER
 WISER
 Woman Activist Fund
 Women & Philanthropy
 Women & Politics Institute
 Women Employed
 Women Executives in State Government
 Women for Women International
 Women in Government
 Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc.
 Women Leaders ONLINE
 Women, Men, and Media
 WOMEN SEEN AND HEARD
 Women Soaring ... A Forum Empowering Women
 Women Studies Welfare Assc.
 Women Work! The National Network for Women's Employment
 Women's Action for New Directions/Women Legislators' Lobby
 Women's Business Development Center
 Women's Caucus for Political Science
 Women's Campaign Fund
 Women's Center for Ethics
 Women's Committee of 100
 Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries
 Women's Ecommerce Association, International
 Women's Edge Coalition
 Women's Environment and Development Organization
 Women's Housing & Economic Development Corp. (WHEDCO)
 Women's Information Network
 Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement
 Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press
 Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
 Women's International Public Health Network
 Women's Opportunity Link of Delaware, Inc.
 Women's Ordination Conference
 Women's Sports Foundation
 Women's Studies SDSU
 Women's Transportation Seminar
 YWCA USA

*Not all groups take positions on nominees