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# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3214

December 13, 2005

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

Dear President Bush:

We are compelled to write you, many of us for the fourth time, regarding your position on access to birth control. On July 12, 2005 and August 1, 2005, nineteen Members of Congress sent you two letters asking you to clarify your position on access to birth control. On October 24, thirty two Members of Congress sent a third letter. It has been over four months – 154 days – since we first officially asked you for your position on birth control. To date, we have not received a response to any of our letters.

In light of this silence, we are left only to interpret the answers of your Press Secretary Scott McClellan at White House press briefings. When first asked to clarify your position on birth control at a May 26, 2005 press briefing, Mr. McClellan refused to "dignify" a reporter's question about your stance on birth control with an answer. Again on July 18, 2005, McClellan was asked about your stance on birth control, and once more he would not provide a direct answer.

However, on October 25, McClellan finally answered this question, but with a response we find extremely troubling. When asked to clarify your position on birth control, McClellan said,

**"And what the focus has been from this administration is on promoting abstinence programs, that ought to be on the same level as the education funding for teen contraception programs. And that's what the President's position has been, and I've stated to that previously."**

Mr. President, does this mean that abstinence is the heart of your birth control policy? Mr. McClellan mentioned teens but what about married women, college women, working women, women in the military, divorced women, mothers who don't want more children? Do you think that promoting abstinence should be their birth control method as well? If so, then this position is a radical departure from previous administrations, and undermines women's Constitutional right to birth control that has been respected in this country since the landmark 1965 Supreme Court case *Griswold v. Connecticut*.

For 95% of Americans -including the 43 million women who are sexually active, many of them married, and do not want to become pregnant-it would be a shocking revelation to learn that you believe that their preferred method of birth control is abstinence.

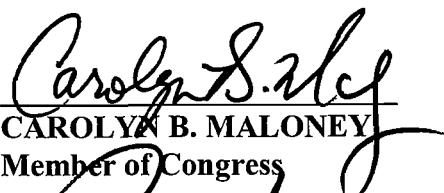
Mr. McClellan's statement is especially troublesome in light of the November 14 GAO report that found that FDA withheld approval of over-the-counter emergency contraceptive Plan B because of political concerns.

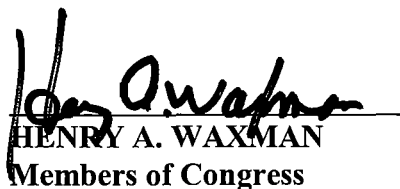
We are truly worried that for the first time in decades access to birth control is in doubt:

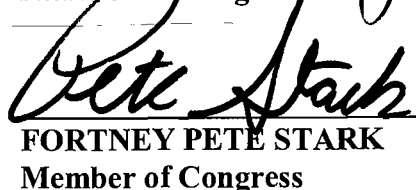
Mr. President, is Scott McClellan's October 25 statement your answer to the question are you for or against birth control, or is your birth control policy abstinence-only? Because if abstinence is your vision of an effective means of birth control in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, then we can only assume that you are against birth control.

Again, Mr. President, please set the record straight. Are you **FOR** or **AGAINST** access to birth control?

Sincerely,

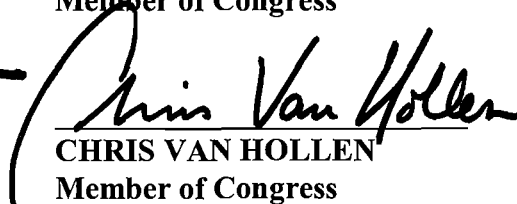
  
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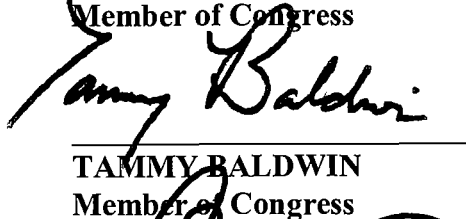
  
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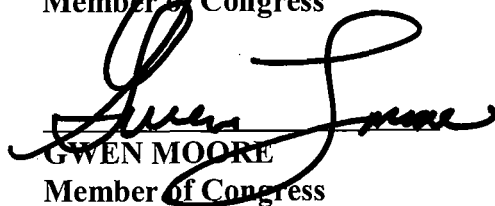
  
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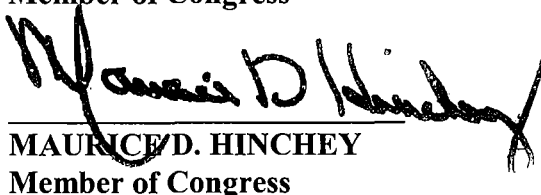
  
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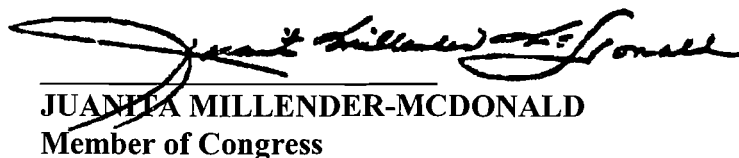
  
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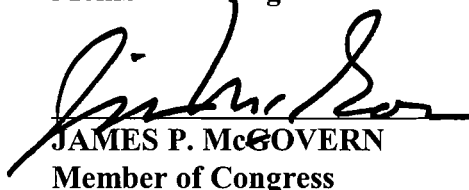
  
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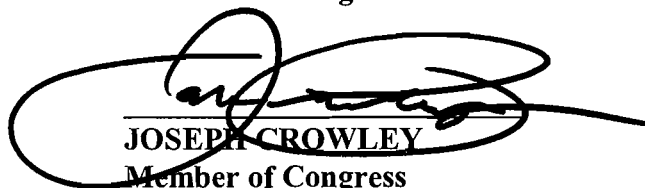
  
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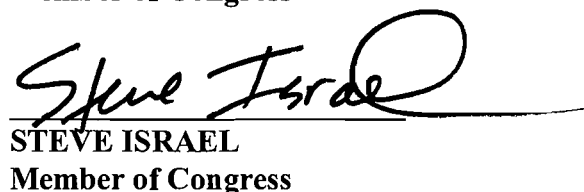
  
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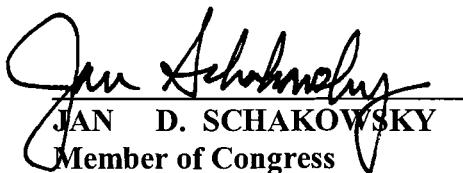
  
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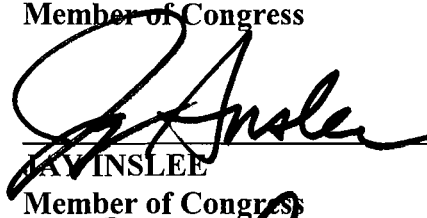
  
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Member of Congress

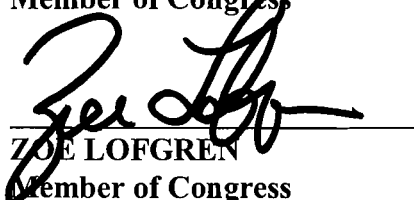
  
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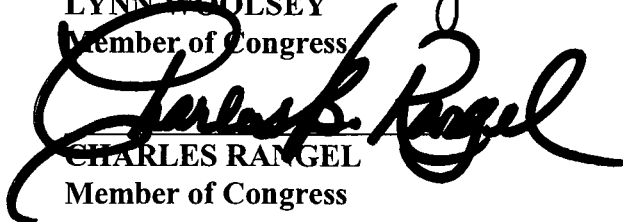
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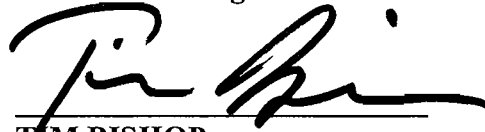
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JERROLD NADLER  
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BARBARA LEE  
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