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Congressional  
Women's  
Caucus  
Speech

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10/21/97

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their lives, and breaking the cycle of violence.

It's important to note, particularly during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, that the issue of domestic abuse was the rallying point for the small group of Congresswomen who met for the first time twenty years ago. They gathered in a small room in the Capitol, known then as the Congresswoman's Reading Room and decided it was important for them to meet with regularity. In the months and years that followed, their membership grew and their issues were expanded. The Caucus was often met with resistance and at times its requests were rebuffed. But the Caucus persisted and triumphed.

For two decades, Democratic and Republican women have put aside their partisan differences to work for the better good of American women and their families. Your legacy has been one of solid achievement for women and families, by shaping the Congressional agenda on some of the most important issues: child care, health care, education, child support enforcement, domestic violence, economic equality, and fairness in the workplace.

We know we what can happen when those of us in Washington work together as you do. This summer, America reached a new milestone when I signed into law the first balanced budget in a generation. This was about more than numbers on a ledger. It embodies the single largest increase in aid to education since 1965. It includes the biggest increase in aid to help people go on to college and to community colleges and to graduate schools. The biggest increase since the G.I. Bill was passed 50 years ago -- and it will literally open the doors to college education to every person who is willing to work for it. The balanced budget agreement extends care to millions and millions of uninsured children. It protects Medicare and Medicaid.

I have said before that I will not be satisfied until we have made sure that every American family has the health care they need to thrive. We are taking a step-by-step approach to accomplish that goal. We've already ensured that a job change or an illness in the family doesn't mean automatically losing your health insurance. We've made it easier for self-employed people to buy health insurance for their families. We've made it easier for families to get access to private insurance. We've made it easier for families to get access to private insurance. We've made it easier for families to get access to private insurance.

Together, the Caucus and my Administration is helping millions of women get the health services they need. Since I took office, funding for breast cancer research, prevention and treatment has nearly doubled. As a result, two breast cancer genes were discovered, holding great promise for the development of new prevention strategies.

An important first step to fighting cancer is detection and we all know how vital mammograms examinations are. The Women's Caucus and my Administration has worked to expand Medicare to cover annual mammograms for all women over age 49, eliminating the co-payments to make these vital examinations more affordable. I'd like to thank the First Lady for championing an annual Mammography Campaign which raises awareness and encourages older women to see their doctors for a mammogram.

Because of the work we have done with the support of the Caucus, Medicare has been

In honor of the First Lady of women's health, later this week I will be addressing new initiatives we are taking to encourage women to get high quality mammograms regularly.

Hillman & I are particularly proud of these achievements.

Too much on the agenda to condense

Included Positive aspects of the budget. This is a positive thing. It's a good thing. It's a good thing.

Today I want to talk about remarkable successes we've had together.

not a logical transition to research. I would put this first genetic screening.

families don't lose health insurance b/c of

to private insurance. It's health

important it is for women to get regular

national breast cancer awareness month

encourage women to get high quality mammograms regularly

Increased efforts to combat fraud & abuse Beyond Healthcare  
act. I am particularly proud of efforts to combat  
the plague of breast cancer

extended also to cover bone mass measurement for women at risk of osteoporosis. Scientists at NIH will know more about the disease due to the \$107 million increase in research funding included in our budget.

We must continue to move forward in our search for medical answers. We are literally unlocking the mysteries of the human body, finding new and unprecedented ways of discovering not only the propensity for it to break down in certain ways or lead to certain forms of disease or human behavior, but also ways to prevent the worst consequences of our genetic structure.

We know we must not abuse this medical breakthrough and the information that is available and becoming more so at a rapid rate. It should be made illegal for health companies to deny or drop coverage or raise rates based on genetic information. A year ago, we took the first step when Congress passed and I signed the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill, which prohibits group health plans from using genetic information to deny coverage. I support ~~Congresswoman Slaughter and Senator Snow's~~ legislation that will ban all health plans, group and individual, from denying coverage or from raising premiums on the basis of genetic tests. It will prohibit all health plans from disclosing genetic information that could be misused by other insurers. But it will protect researchers' ability to make the best use of this vitally important tool. I urge Congress to take the necessary action to pass ~~Congresswoman Slaughter and Sen. Snow's~~ genetic discrimination legislation. This legislation deserves a hearing. Americans should never have to choose between saving their health insurance and taking tests that could save their lives.

Additionally, I call upon Congress to act on the DeLauro-Dingell-Roukema mastectomy legislation. With the support of my Administration, De Lauro, Dingell and Roukema are trying to stop the sort of drive-by mastectomies, where women with breast cancer are operated on and put out of the hospital in a matter of a few hours. This too, deserves a hearing and the attention of a full Congress.

We must also act to bring women the full measure of economic and legal equity to which they are entitled. We know that many road blocks still exist for women and minority owned businesses. The Caucus and my administration, under the direction of Aida Alvarez, continues to work together to counter the effects of discrimination and long developed networks which hinder the success of new business. I thank you for your support of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program, which has successfully increased the percentage of women and minority-owned construction firms without imposing quotas or set asides of any kind. I'm pleased to know that both houses have included it in their legislation and I hope you continue to fight to make sure it stays there.

I know you that you will, as I know we will continue to work together. By working on the issues important to women, you are improving the lives of American children, American families and strengthening the American spirit.

Twenty years later, the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues certainly commands

It you want  
an example → a leading reason  
women do not get new  
testing is b/c they fear  
discrimination from  
health plans

able to analyze an individual's  
makeup almost instantly  
revealing predisposition to  
disease & reaction to drugs

fact  
check

our genetic code

with stunning speed

hidden tendencies for nearly every disease. In fact,  
scientists predict that they soon will be

comes the need for new protection

we say  
first in  
bipartisan  
contract

call on  
Congress  
to pass  
bipartisan

I want to applaud Cong. Slaughter &  
Sen. Snow for taking leadership

let's  
discuss

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drive as you know I've supported  
legislative many health plans have  
more responsive that's encouraging  
legislation or make sure law of land,

make sure hearings — clearly unacceptable stop  
practice

progress hearings.

the respect you have always deserved. You can feel it here this evening, with so many of us gathered to pay tribute. Tonight is a night for celebration, a celebration of the initiative taken in 1977, a celebration of 20 years of hard work, and a celebration of the many initiatives you will fight for on behalf of all Americans in the years to come.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FR: Chris Jennings and Jennifer Klein

RE: Status of the 48 Hour Mastectomy Rule

Tonight you are speaking in front of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues. Your speech will likely focus on your impressive accomplishments in women health. Just to mention a few, these include: doubling funding for breast cancer research; eliminating the deductible for the Medicare mammography benefit; and expanding Medicare coverage to all women ages 49 and older making this benefit consistent with recommendations from the National Cancer Institute; and significant new initiatives to combat violence against women.

One of the issues that is not resolved, however, both for this speech and for your upcoming radio address on breast cancer this Saturday is the degree to which you emphasize challenge to the Congress to move legislation that ensures that women are allowed to stay in the hospital at least 48 hours after a mastectomy. This memo reviews the current status of this legislation.

**Previous Efforts to Highlight Mastectomy Legislation.** As you know, the First Lady highlighted the Administration's support for DeLauro-Dingell-Roukema mastectomy legislation at an event last spring. More recently, you called on Congress to hold hearings on this issue in your speech to the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) last month. At SEIU, you also requested Congress take immediate action to pass existing other consumer protections to put in place anti-gag rules that give patients the right to know their treatment options, to pass laws preventing health plans from discriminating on the basis of genetic information, and to move legislation to adopt the new strong federal standards on medical privacy.

**Reaction to Mastectomy Legislation following SEIU Speech.** Your SEIU speech was very well received. Republicans on the Senate Labor Committee (the Committee of Jurisdiction) informed us they are planning to draft legislation on medical privacy and genetic discrimination this year, and we have already responded to their requests for briefings and technical assistance on these issues. They also expressed an interest in moving the anti-gag rule legislation you have supported perhaps in the context of a broader initiative on consumer protections. Having said this, the debate in Congress about consumer protections is likely to emphasize issues of access to services and providers rather than specific benefits, particularly time-limited benefits

The Committees of Jurisdiction in the House (Commerce) and the Senate (Labor) have informed us that there is little interest in moving the 48-hour mastectomy legislation. The Republicans and most moderate Democrats do not want to pass laws which regulate benefits and are particularly skeptical about the notion of legislating certain time limits for certain surgeries. (This is, of course, after a heavy amount of lobbying from the insurance and business communities; it also appears, however, to be a growing opinion in most independent policy circles.) Many view 48-hour legislation for newborns and their mothers as an anomaly that passed only because of the politics of a campaign year. As such, the Congress is therefore unlikely to hold hearings on this legislation and probably will not do so unless they believe there will be a political cost for not doing so; at this point, as will be explained below, they do not feel pressured to do anything on this matter.

Some leaders in the women's health community and the breast cancer community, such as the National Breast Cancer Coalition, have also informed us that while they support this legislation and appreciate the Administration's efforts to emphasize the 48 hour rule issue, it is not their highest legislative priority. Their current top legislative priorities include the genetic anti-discrimination legislation and the extension of Medicare coverage for cancer clinical trials. They are extremely pleased that you have taken a leadership role on the genetic screening legislation and are pushing us to support legislation on the cancer trials. (We are currently working with Nancy-Ann Min DeParle and the rest of the Department in developing a workable legislative proposal; **however, the policy and cost development process has not been completed and it would be premature to announce at this time.**) At this time, we are working to see if we can finalize the policy in time for an early November announcement.

It is also important to note that your Quality Commission, which is meeting today and tomorrow to finalize their draft consumer bill of rights, will not include a recommendation that all plans be mandated to provide 48 hours of coverage for mastectomies. Because of the broad representation on the Commission, they could not come close to reaching consensus on this issue. Instead, their recommendations will focus on process protections (consumer information and appeals protections), as well as some special access provisions, such as the right to qualified specialists for women's health providers.

Notwithstanding the hesitancy of the Congress to move on the 48 hour mastectomy bill, we believe that you should continue reference your support for the legislation and your desire for the Hill to at least hold hearings. However, we also recommend that you reference the bill as one of many initiatives, which will be in your speech, that you care deeply about. This ensures that we maintain a consistent position, but that we don't put all our eggs into one legislative basket.

We also understand you are interested in considering ways to fight prostate cancer. Building on the new Medicare prostate cancer benefit you signed into law in the recent balanced budget, we are currently developing options in areas of research, coverage and outreach. We will soon forward you a memo that outlines the options in more detail. Suffice to say, the Medicare coverage of clinical cancer trials issue we raised above would focus on prostate, as well as all other types new promising cancer research.

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON**  
**TALKING POINTS**  
**CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ON WOMEN'S ISSUES**  
**OCTOBER 21, 1997**

**Acknowledge:** Sec. Albright, Ambass. Boggs. Congratulations to Members of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues on its 20 years of leadership for women and families. Thank you to Women's Policy Inc. for hosting this special event. I'd like to pay special tribute to Margaret Heckler and Elizabeth Holtzman who had the vision to create this Caucus.

The strength and success of the Caucus through the years is the result of its bipartisanship and able leadership, with Sen. Olympia Snowe and former Rep. Pat Schroeder, who guided its direction for 12 years . . . Rep. Connie Morella and Nita Lowey, who rebuilt the Caucus after the House voted to defund House caucuses . . . and of course, Reps. Nancy Johnson and Eleanor Holmes Norton whose leadership brings us here this evening.

Let me also thank you for demonstrating that our nation benefits when we tap the talents of all our people. I am proud to have appointed superbly qualified, highly competent people to be Secretary of State, Attorney General, OMB Director, Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, chair of the National Economic Council -- and proud that every one of these people happened to be the first woman to hold that job.

It was six years ago tomorrow that I first ran for President. I challenged America to envision a bold course for our country in the 21st Century -- to make the American Dream come alive for every person responsible enough to work for it, to keep our country the world's strongest force for peace and freedom and prosperity, to bring our people together across all the lines that divide us, into one America.

America has made strong progress toward that vision -- most of all, when you and I work together. The first law I signed -- in one of my proudest moments as President -- was the Family and Medical Leave law, first introduced by Pat Schroeder in 1985. Because of this law, millions of people no longer have to make a choice between succeeding at work and home. The caucus should be proud -- and I thank you.

Working together, we passed Kassebaum-Kennedy to ensure that a job change or an illness in the family doesn't mean automatically losing your health insurance and made it easier for self-employed people to buy health insurance for their families.

Working together, we increased the minimum wage so that 10 million hard-working Americans could get a little bit of help to raise their children and keep their family strong.

Working together, we are helping to protect the millions of women throughout our nation who are plagued by the terror of family violence. We have secured full funding for the Violence Against Women Act, created the first ever Violence Against Women Office and opened the first

national domestic violence hotline. We are helping survivors to get on with their lives, and breaking the cycle of violence.

We know we what can happen when all of Washington works the way the Caucus does. This summer, America reached a new milestone when I signed into law the first balanced budget in a generation. This was a balanced budget that honors our values. It embodies the single largest increase in aid to education since 1965. It includes the biggest increase in aid to higher education since the G.I. Bill 50 years ago -- and it will literally open the doors to college education to every person who is willing to work for it.

And this budget was the most important investment in the health of our people in a generation. You have just heard [*from the First Lady*] about the largest investment in children's health since the passage of Medicaid in 1965. It will mean quality health care for up to 5 million uninsured children. Let me say that I regard this as a tribute to the First Lady and a vindication of her hard work.

But this budget did more, much more, especially for the health of women. It expanded Medicare to cover bone mass measurement for women at risk of osteoporosis. It increases funding for research at NIH by over \$100 million. And it expanded Medicare to cover annual mammograms for all women over age 49 and eliminated the co-payments to make these vital examinations more affordable.

We have done all this to strengthen our families and prepare America for the 21st Century. But we have more to do to strengthen our families, protect our values, and prepare America for the 21st Century. Let me quickly mention two key areas.

First, I am committed to continuing our focus on women's health. Since I took office, funding for breast cancer research, prevention and treatment has nearly doubled. We have discovered two breast cancer genes, holding great promise for the development of new prevention strategies. We are unlocking the mysteries of the human genetic code and continuing to discover new ways to diagnose and treat genetic disorders. But we know that with these medical breakthroughs comes the need for new protections. Studies show that the leading reason women do not take advantage of the new genetic breast cancer tests is because they fear discrimination from health plans. This kind of discrimination is wrong and should be made illegal.

So I call upon Congress to pass bipartisan legislation that will ban all health plans, group and individual, from denying coverage or from raising premiums on the basis of genetic tests. It should prohibit all health plans from disclosing genetic information that could be misused by other insurers. But it should protect researchers' ability to make the best use of this vitally important tool. I applaud Rep. Slaughter and Sen. Snowe for their leadership. Genetic discrimination legislation deserves action now. Americans should never have to choose between saving their health insurance and taking tests that could save their lives.

Second, we must continue to break down doors, break through glass ceilings, and act to

bring women the full measure of economic and legal equity to which they are entitled. The Caucus and my Administration, under the direction of Aida Alvarez, continues to work together to counter the effects of discrimination and long developed networks which hinder the success of women and minority owned business. I thank you for your support of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program, which has successfully increased the percentage of women and minority-owned construction firms. I'm pleased to know that this has passed both houses. have included it in their legislation and I hope you continue to fight to make sure it stays there.

*By working on issues important to women, together we are improving the lives of American children and American families, as well as the lives of those around the globe. As my wife has attested to, the influence of our work extends far beyond our borders of the United States and this Caucus serves as an inspiration and a model for women parliamentarians all over the world. You will shortly hear from Secretary Albright about our global efforts to champion womens issues.*

Twenty years after its creation, the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues commands the respect you have always deserved. You can feel it here this evening, with so many of us gathered to pay tribute. Tonight is a night for celebration, a celebration of the initiative taken in 1977, a celebration of 20 years of hard work, and a celebration of the many initiatives you will fight for on behalf of all Americans in the years to come.

most significant increase in education funding in more than 30 years. It includes \$35 billion in tax relief to help families pay for college and training -- the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill 50 years ago. (Applause.) It will give every American who needs it a HOPE Scholarship to pay for the first two years of college. It gives tax relief for all four years of college and for education throughout a lifetime. The overall budget agreement also includes the largest increase in Pell Grant Scholarships for deserving students in three decades, funds our America Reads Challenge, helps to connect all our schools and libraries to the Internet by the year 2000.

As the spending bills move forward in weeks to come, we will work to see that they reflect this agreement. I am pleased that this legislation also will give communities substantial tax cuts to help to build and modernize our schools. (Applause.)

All across America, I have challenged our people to make sure that every 8-year-old can read, every 12-year-old can log onto the Internet, every 18-year-old can go to college, every adult can keep learning for a lifetime. This balanced budget makes unprecedented progress toward those goals.

Second, this is a balanced budget that strengthens our families by extending health insurance coverage to up to 5 million children. (Applause.) By investing fully \$24 billion we will be able to provide quality medical care for these children, everything from regular check-ups to major surgery. I want to thank all of the people in Congress and among my fellow Democrats here who worked so hard on the health care issue, but I especially want to say a thanks to Senator Kennedy, Senator Rockefeller and to the First Lady for what they have done over these years to help us to reach this important day. (Applause.)

We want every child in America to grow up healthy and strong and this investment takes a major step toward that goal. I'm also pleased that Congress agreed to pay for the children's health care in part with a new 15-cents-a-pack tax on cigarettes. Not only will this new revenue help to pay for health care, it will help prevent children from taking up smoking in the first place. (Applause.)

Third, this is a balanced budget that provides modest tax relief to the middle class, helping families to raise their children, buy and sell a home, save for their retirement with expanded IRAs and send their children to college. We fought very hard to make sure this tax cut helped a wide range of middle class parents, all those who are working hard to raise their children, pay their taxes and be good citizens, and the agreement does just that. (Applause.)

Fourth, this is a balanced budget that will help us finish the job of welfare reform, providing \$3 billion to move welfare recipients to private sector jobs, keeping our promise made last year to provide \$12 billion to restore disability and health benefits for 350,000 legal immigrants. And, as the Vice President will describe, it will double the number of empowerment zones to bring the spark of private enterprise to our hardest-pressed neighborhoods. (Applause.)

Finally, this is a balanced budget that honors our commitment to our parents by extending the Medicare Trust Fund for a decade and to the next generation by continuing our commitment to the environment to protect our air, our land, our water, to clean up the worst toxic waste sites in the nation. And we achieve all these goals while eliminating the budget deficit by 2002. We are determined never again to repeat the mistakes of the past, when we mortgaged our economy to reckless policies. This budget reforms and cuts yesterday's government so that we can help provide our people the means to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Let me thank the negotiators for the administration who did a superb job, all the democratic lawmakers here and, indeed, all of the members of Congress who worked hard on this legislation. I also want to say a special word of appreciation to Senator Lott and Speaker Gingrich, to Senator Domenici and Congressman Kasich and to their committee chairs, who worked with us across the lines of substantial philosophical and practical differences to reach a good faith agreement that is an honorable and principled compromise. And especially let me thank Senators Daschle and Lautenberg, Congressman Spratt and Congressman Rangel for their leadership.

This agreement is a monument to the efforts that people, who good will can make, when they put aside partisan interests to work together for the common good and our common future. It reflects the values and aspirations of all Americans. And I hope and expect it will marshal strong majorities of both parties in both houses.

This summer we had an historic opportunity to strengthen America for the 21st century and we have seized it. Now our nation can move forward stronger, more vibrant, more united than ever. For that, I am profoundly grateful.

Now I'd like to ask the Vice President to come forward and let me thank you all again for this great, great day. (Applause.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Wait, wait. We forgot to say one thing. We still have to pass this agreement. (Laughter.) And so, tomorrow, the next day -- and I hope it will be over by then -- all of us who are for it, in both parties, have a solemn obligation to go out there and try to keep moving and keep this spirit alive and actually pass it. We are celebrating an agreement; we still have to celebrate the passage of the bill and then the signing of the bill, and I look forward to being here for that with all of you and others as well.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

3:25 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 29, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
ON THE BUDGET

The South Lawn

2:50 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. Ladies and gentlemen, we have the pleasure of announcing today an historic agreement that will benefit generations of Americans. Last night we reached agreement with Congress on detailed legislation to balance the budget in a way that honors our values, invests in our people and cuts taxes for middle class families. After decades of deficits, we have put America's fiscal house in order again. (Applause.)

Above all, we are investing in education, America's most important priority. I am particularly pleased that the first balanced budget in a generation is also the best education budget in a generation and the best for future generations. (Applause.)

This agreement meets my goal of balancing the budget in a way that honors our values, invests in our people and prepares America for the 21st century. It is very, very good for our country. It's a victory for every parent who wants a good education for their children, for every child in a poor household who needs health care, for every immigrant struggling to make it here, for every family working to build a secure future. It is the best investment we can make in America's future.

Let me underscore the magnitude of this achievement. Four and a half years ago, when this administration took office, America's budget deficit was \$290 billion and rising. We put in place a comprehensive economic strategy to cut the deficit and invest in our people. The budget plan adopted in 1993 made a large contribution to today's conditions in America -- a strong economy, low inflation, and a deficit that has already shrunk by more than 80 percent.

The budget agreement that we announced today would not be possible had it not been for the tough vote taken in 1993 to set us on the right path. (Applause.) Thank you. Now, this legislation will help to ensure the conditions for continued prosperity, keeping interest rates down and spurring investment. And, just as important, it will give our people the tools to reap the rewards of economic growth. Let me mention just a few of the details of this plan.

First, at the heart of this balanced budget is the historic investment in education -- the

Many of you in this room have also contributed to our efforts to support legislation to protect women who have had mastectomies from being mistreated by health plans. It is simply unacceptable that Congress has not even held a hearing on the DeLauro-Dingell-Roukema 48-hour mastectomy patient protection bill.

Laura leaves Chris's thoughts  
on this

— Sarah

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON**  
**REMARKS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ON WOMEN'S ISSUES**  
**OCTOBER 21, 1997**

Acknowledge: Sec. Albright, Lindy Boggs. Congratulations to Members of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues on its 20 years of leadership for women and families, and thank you to Women's Policy Inc. for hosting this special event. I'd like to pay special tribute to Margaret Heckler and Elizabeth Holtzman who had the vision to create a bipartisan Caucus committed to women and family issues twenty years ago.

*make style consistent and more importantly, avoid direct repetition*

The strength and success of the Caucus through the years is the result of its bipartisanship and able leadership, with Senator Olympia Snow and former Congresswoman Pat Schroeder guiding its direction for 12 years. . . Congresswomen Connie Morella and Nita Lowey, who rebuilt the Caucus after the House voted to defund House caucuses . . . and of course, Congresswomen Nancy Johnson and Eleanor Holmes Norton whose leadership brings us here this evening.

I'm proud of the partnership my administration has formed with the Caucus. We certainly know what kind of results we can get when we work together. In 1993, we gave the country the Family and Medical Leave law, which was first introduced by Pat Schroeder in 1985. Everyplace I go, people tell me, that if it hadn't been for that law, their lives would have been diminished considerably. They thank me for being able to take a little time off to have a baby or take care of a loved one, without losing their job. Millions of people no longer have to make a choice between succeeding at work and home because of that law, and I'd like to thank you for fighting for it.

*and like President is able to take time off*

*helping make it possible for them*

Together we are helping to protect the millions of women throughout our nation who are plagued by the terror of family violence. We have secured full funding for the Violence Against Women Act and created the first ever Violence Against Women office, and opened the first national domestic violence hotline. We are assisting victims, helping them get on with their lives, and breaking the cycle of violence.

It's important to note, particularly during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, that the issue of domestic abuse was the rallying point for the small group of Congresswomen who met convened organized for the first time twenty years ago. They gathered in a small room in the Capitol, known then as the Congresswoman's Reading Room and decided it was important for them to meet with regularity. In the months and years that followed, their membership grew and their issues were expanded. The Caucus was often met with resistance and at times its requests were rebuffed. But the Caucus persisted and triumphed,

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*they did not*

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DLC 1990  
New Orleans '90 or '91

APL/uo

Latin America Trade Fast.

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We know we what can happen when those of us in Washington work together as you do. This summer, America reached a new milestone when I signed into law the first balanced budget in a generation. This was about more than numbers on a ledger. It embodied the single largest increase in aid to education since 1965. It includes the biggest increase in aid to help people go on to college and to community colleges and to graduate schools. ~~The biggest increase~~ since the G.I. Bill was passed 50 years ago -- and it will ~~literally~~ open the doors to college education to every person who is willing to work for it. The balanced budget agreement extends care to millions and millions of uninsured children. It protects Medicare and Medicaid.

I have said before <sup>quality</sup> that I will not be satisfied <sup>desire</sup> until we have made sure that every American family has the health care they need ~~to thrive~~. We are taking a step-by-step approach to accomplish that goal. We've already ensured that a job change or an illness in the family doesn't mean automatically losing your health insurance. We've <sup>now</sup> made it easier for self-employed people to buy health insurance for their families.

Together, the Caucus and my administration <sup>are</sup> is helping millions of women get the health services they need. Since I took office, funding for breast cancer research, prevention and treatment has nearly doubled. As a result, two breast cancer genes were discovered, holding great promise for the development of new prevention strategies.

The first step to fighting cancer is detection and we all know <sup>have</sup> how vital mammogram examinations are. The Women's Caucus and my administration ~~has~~ worked to expand Medicare to cover annual mammograms for all women over age 49, eliminating ~~the~~ co-payments to make these vital examinations more affordable. I'd like to thank the First Lady for championing an annual Mammography Campaign <sup>that</sup> which raises awareness and encourages older women to see their doctors for a mammogram.

Because of the work we have done with the support of the Caucus, Medicare has been extended also to cover bone mass measurement for women at risk of osteoporosis. Scientists at NIH will know more about the disease due to the \$107 million increase in research funding included in our budget.

We must continue to move forward in our search for medical answers. We are <sup>through the Human Genome Project, ~~being~~ discovering</sup> literally unlocking the mysteries of the human body, ~~finding new and unprecedented ways of discovering not only the propensity for it to break down in certain ways or lead to certain forms of disease or human behavior, but also ways to prevent the worst consequences of our genetic structure.~~ <sup>new</sup> diagnose and treat genetic disorders. <sup>was word</sup>

<sup>fighting</sup> We know we must not abuse this medical break <sup>strengthen</sup> through and the information that is available and becoming more so at a rapid rate. It should be made illegal for health companies to deny or drop coverage or raise rates based on genetic information. A year ago, we took the first step when Congress passed and I signed the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill, which prohibits group health plans from using genetic information to deny coverage. I support Congresswoman

<sup>forward?</sup> what? <sup>antecedent</sup> not clear <sup>enough</sup>

*parent*  
Slaughter and Senator Snow's legislation that will ~~ban~~ all health plans, group and individual, from denying coverage or from raising premiums on the basis of genetic tests. It will prohibit all health plans from disclosing genetic information that could be misused by other insurers. But it will protect researchers' ability to make the best use of this vitally important tool. I urge Congress to take the necessary action to pass Congresswoman Slaughter and Sen. Snow's genetic discrimination legislation. This legislation deserves a hearing. Americans should never have to choose between saving their health insurance and taking tests that could save their lives.

*it's not the a subtle fool*

*put this with cancer breast*  
We are moving to try to stop the sort of drive-by mastectomies, where women with breast cancer are operated on and put out of the hospital in a matter of a few hours. I ask Congress to act on the DeLauro-Dingle-Roukema legislation. This too, deserves a hearing and deserves Congressional action.

We must also act to bring women the full measure of economic and legal equity to which they are entitled. We know that many road blocks still exist for women and minority-owned businesses. The Caucus and my administration, under the direction of Aida Alvarez, continues to work together to counter the effects of discrimination and long developed networks which hinder the success of new business. I thank you for your support of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program, which has successfully increased the percentage of women and minority-owned construction firms without imposing quotas or set asides of any kind. I'm pleased to know that both houses have included it in their legislation, and I hope you continue to fight to make sure it stays there.

*needed to (parallelism)*  
*verb*

I know you that you will, as I know we will continue to work together. By working on the issues important to women, you are improving the lives of American children, American families and strengthening the American spirit.

*good*  
Twenty years later, the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues certainly commands the respect you have always deserved. You can feel it here this evening, with so many of us gathered to pay tribute. Tonight is a night for celebration, a celebration of the initiative taken in 1977, a celebration of 20 years of hard work, and a celebration of the many initiatives you will fight for on behalf of all Americans in the years to come.

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*from the  
program book*

## Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues

Women's Policy, Inc. proudly salutes the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues for 20 years of leadership for women and families.

On April 19, 1977, a small group of Congresswomen sat down to talk about spousal abuse. The first meeting of the Congresswomen's Caucus was held in a small room in the Capitol, known then as the Congresswomen's Reading Room. Photographs of the 18 women serving in the House were mounted on one wall. The long, narrow hallway leading to the room displayed the pictures of the other ~~xx~~ women who had served in the House since Jeanette Rankin was first elected in 1916. *69*

In the months that followed, the 15 Congresswomen who made up the Caucus met in the reading room to discuss Social Security and private pension reform as well as the importance of child care and job training to moving women off welfare. The new Caucus met with Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps to discuss government contracts for women-owned businesses and asked the Small Business Committee to hold hearings on the subject.

But they sometimes found it difficult to command the respect they deserved. When they wanted to meet with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to discuss discrimination against women in the military, their request was rebuffed by a colonel who said "the General is unable to come to your party." A call from the ranking Republican on the Military Personnel Subcommittee -- Rep. Marjorie Holt (R-MD) -- changed his mind.

• • • • •

Bipartisanship is the key to the Caucus' strength and success. The legacy of its first 20 years is Democratic and Republican Congresswomen committed to improving the lives of women and families, and willing to put their partisan differences aside to do it.

Since the beginning, this bipartisan spirit has been reflected in the Caucus' leadership:

... Reps. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY) and Margaret Heckler (R-MA), the founding co-chairs whose great vision we celebrate 20 years later...

... Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO) and Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME), who together led the Caucus for more than a decade, presiding over some of its most historic achievements...

... Reps. Constance Morella (R-MD) and Nita Lowey (D-NY), who rebuilt the organization when the House voted to abolish caucuses and whose dedication and boundless energy kept the Caucus' bipartisan spirit alive ...

... Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT) and Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), whose bold leadership has brought together the largest and most diverse group of women in the Caucus' history ...

\* \* \* \* \*

Women's Health under the direction of Dr. Susan Blumenthal is establishing an educational campaign along with the National Osteoporosis Foundation.

- **Minority Women's Health**

The PHS's Office on Women's Health held a conference on minority women's health in January in Washington. In addition, we are creating an advisory committee to address the minority women's health issues, and I signed into law last year the mandate of including women and minorities in all NIH clinical trials.

- **AIDS/HIV**

The incidence of AIDS has increased far more rapidly among women than men. For example, the incidence of AIDS among women in 1994 was 14.4 times that of 1985, while the incidence among men in 1994 was only 5.5 times that of 1985. My budget proposes just over \$1 billion for activities under the Ryan White CARE Act which funds grants to cities and states to help finance medical and support services for individuals with HIV; to community-based clinics for early HIV intervention services; to pediatric AIDS; and to HIV education and training programs. My budget also includes \$167 million dedicated to AIDS drug assistance programs to improve access to protease inhibitors and other life-extending AIDS medications.

## **Children**

- **Child Care**

Every budget that I have submitted has included increases to improve and expand child care services. In addition, I streamlined four major child care programs into a single Child Care Bureau, headed by Joan Lombardi, and revamped/strengthened technical assistance to states, territories, and tribes to ensure best access to best available information on child care quality issues, particularly health and safety. We have also launched the National Child Care Information Center.

- **Child Support**

My Administration has a three-part strategy:

- (1) tracking deadbeats across state lines and from job to job;
- (2) a challenge to 25 states to implement new hire reporting; and
- (3) new regulations requiring mothers to cooperate with paternity establishment efforts.

A record \$11 billion in child support was collected in 1995 through tougher enforcement, an almost 40 percent increase over 1992. In addition, I issued an Executive Order to help track down federal workers who fail to pay child support

## TALKING POINTS ON PRIORITY ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS

### Health

- **Breast Cancer Research**

Since I took office, funding for breast cancer research, prevention and treatment has nearly doubled, from about \$276 million in FY 1993 to over \$500 million in my FY 1998 budget. This includes money for breast cancer screening as well as the NIH-funded discovery of two breast cancer genes --BRCA-1 and BRCA-2 --which holds great promise for the development of new prevention strategies.

- **Mammograms**

My budget proposes to extend annual mammograms for Medicare beneficiaries 65 and over. Currently, they are covered bi-annually. This makes coverage consistent with the recommendation of most breast cancer experts. In addition, my plan eliminates the co-payment and deductible requirement for annual mammograms for beneficiaries over age 50.

- **Mastectomies**

I have endorsed the DeLauro-Dingell-Roukema legislation to ensure that women are not forced out of the hospital before they are ready following a mastectomy. (Mrs. Clinton hosted a White House event on this legislation on February 12.) The Department of Health and Human Services also recently announced that it was sending a letter to all Medicare managed care plans making clear that they may not set ceilings for inpatient hospital treatment or set requirements for outpatient treatment, and that a woman and her doctor should make decisions about what is medically necessary. Several members of Congress are also backing legislation calling for the coverage of reconstruction following mastectomies.

- **Medicare**

The Medicare program primarily serves women (22 million women), nearly 60 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries. It is especially important to older women. There are 13 million women on Medicare who are over the age of 75 and 2.8 million who are over the age of 85 (twice the number of men over 85). My budget preserves and improves the Medicare program. It extends the life of the Part A Hospital Insurance Trust Fund into 2007, gives beneficiaries more choices among private health plans, and invests in new preventive health benefits.

- **Osteoporosis**

My budget proposes a 2.2 percent increase in funding for osteoporosis research at NIH, about \$107 million. In addition, the Public Health Service's (PHS) Office on

- **Juvenile Justice**

In addition to taking executive action, we have sent legislative proposals to Congress to help stop the rise of youth violence and drug use, including:

- (1) trying juvenile offenders as adults for violent crimes,
- (2) reinstating bans on guns in schools;
- (3) supporting a \$75 million grant program for juvenile drugs and gun courts; and
- (4) increasing the penalties for drug dealers who sell drugs to children or use children to sell drugs. I also support curfews and school uniforms as a means to address juvenile crime.

- **Children's Health Care**

In 1995, more than 10 million American children had no health insurance. Eighty percent (8 million) of the ten million uninsured children have a parent who is a worker. Many uninsured children have parents who earn too much for Medicaid but too little to afford private coverage. My plan helps these groups of uninsured children by working with states, communities, advocacy groups, providers, and businesses to expand coverage. Combined with the scheduled Medicaid phase-in of older children, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES estimates that the my plan would provide coverage for as many as 5 million children by the year 2000.

## **Crime**

- **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)**

Millions of women throughout our nation are plagued by the terror of family violence. Approximately 20 percent of all emergency room visits by women result from domestic violence. My FY 1998 budget proposes \$381 million to combat gender-based crime --an \$123 million increase. This money funds grants to facilitate coordination among law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and victims assistance programs to encourage mandatory arrest policies. Studies have shown that mandatory arrest policies often break the cycle of violence and reduce subsequent incidences of violence. Two other important initiatives: I created the first ever Violence Against Women Office and opened the first ever national domestic violence hotline, 1-800-799-SAFE. (First year: 80,000 calls.)

## **Economic Equity**

- **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**

EITC was expanded in 1990 and in 1993. The full 1993 expansion was completed in 1996 and the effects will show up in the returns being filed now. About 20 million households received EITC in 1996. The maximum credit for families with two or more kids in 1996 --\$3,500. EITC has moved 3.7 million families out of poverty.

- **Pay Equity**

More than three decades after the passage of the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, women and people of color still suffer the impact of unfair pay differentials. Last year, American women earned only 71 cents for every dollar a man made, with women of color earning approximately 60 cents on the male dollar. We have been working with state and local governments, law enforcement agencies, private sector employers, educators and labor unions to work together to establish programs aimed at increasing the wages of employees in female dominated jobs and attract and retain America's best workers. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes-Norton, and Senators Harkin and Daschle have introduced pay equity legislation this year.

### **Special Areas of Concern**

- **Late Term**

My Administration's position is that this procedure should be banned except when necessary to save the life of a woman or prevent serious harm to her health. There is nothing in the recent debate that conflicts with that position, which I took after much thought and moral consideration. I would sign legislation banning this procedure, but only if it has an exception that will protect those women who need it to save their lives or prevent serious harm to their health. Senator Daschle is currently drafting legislation to outlaw all post viability abortions with exceptions for the life and severe adverse health consequences to the mother.

- **Sexual Harassment**

My Administration's message emphasizes that sexual harassment, similar to other forms of discrimination, devastates military unit cohesion and force readiness and is inconsistent with core military values. Incidents involving alleged sexual abuse at Aberdeen Proving Ground prompted the Army leadership to take the following steps: disclosure of the problems at Aberdeen to the American public and to the Congress, to include briefings to members of the Women's Caucus and the Senate and House armed services committees; initiation of a well publicized hotline to provide advice to victims of sexual crimes and harassment and to refer allegations to the appropriate authority for investigation, and emphasis by the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Army's unequivocal policy of zero tolerance for sexual harassment. Sexual harassment education and training have been reemphasized to ensure that soldiers respond appropriately to behavior that is prohibited.

- **Procurement**

The Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act, signed into law in 1994, set a 5 percent federal-wide procurement goal for women-owned businesses. As of this year, we are at 2 percent. After reviewing available evidence and data, the Justice Department concluded that there was still a compelling need for race-conscious affirmative action measures in federal procurement and published a proposal to reform these programs, May 23, 1996.

Families  
Education

They received more than 1,000 comments in response to this notice, which subsequently formed the basis for the draft regulations under discussion. In addition, Sylvia Mathews is overseeing a White House Working Group to implement new procurement reform.

- **Employee-Choice Flex-Time Proposal (Compensatory Time)**

My Administration is working with government officials, public and private sector employers, labor unions and work and family advocates to create employee-choice, flex-time programs that support workers in taking time off for family and educational purposes without fear of losing their jobs. The goal of my proposal is to ensure employee flexibility and choice, paycheck protection and basic employment protections. Key aspects of the my Employee-Choice Flex-Time proposal includes: employee choice flex-time for any purpose with 2 weeks notice, employees can choose pay over flex-time and flex-time for family leave. Congressman Ballenger and Senator Ashcroft have introduced their own comp-time legislation. I have said that I would veto those bills in their current form.

- **Campaign Finance Reform Bundling**

I support a ban on bundling because I believe fat cat lobbyists should be prohibited from walking down the corridors of corporate America collecting large donations from wealthy executives and then sending those checks, all at once, to a favored candidate. This effectively allows one individual to exceed the contribution limits that everyone must live under. Now EMILY's List is a much different operation because it collects hundreds and thousands of small donations from individuals around the country. I support the work done by EMILY's List and I believe the final legislation should ensure that a ban on bundling is not so broad as to interfere with this type of grassroots participation in the democratic process.

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worked to win significantly increased funding as a part of welfare reform; and child support enforcement with the Caucus' legislative proposal becoming law as part of welfare reform.

The Caucus' biggest accomplishment this year has been expanding Medicare to cover annual mammograms and bone mass measurement for women at risk of osteoporosis. This was done as part of the Balanced Budget Act.

While much has been accomplished, much remains to be done to bring women the full measure of economic and legal equity to which they are entitled. American women and families will be able to look to the Caucus to continue this work.

President looks forward to working with the Caucus on many of these issues. Particularly good ones to mention would be child care and work and family issues to address recent research on brain development in and child care needs of youngest children; strong emphasis on women's health research, including breast cancer, contraceptive research to make women better able to prevent unintended pregnancies, and AIDS research, especially microbicide research to give women the ability to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases; preventing domestic violence and sexual assault, including full funding for Violence against Women Act programs.

As the Caucus continues its bipartisan advocacy for women and families, they will be aided in this effort by Women's Policy, Inc. which was created to provide nonpartisan policy research and information for the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. For the past 20 years, one of the reasons for the Caucus' tremendous success has been that it had the facts on its side. At times, those facts have been pretty obvious, like the fact that far too many fathers fail to provide the support their children deserve. Other times, those facts have been less well-known, as with the exclusion of women from clinical trials on heart disease and AIDS, and it was the Caucus that brought these issues to the attention of both the public and the Congress.

As the Caucus begins its second 20 years, its strength and effectiveness will continue to come from its bipartisan membership, both Democrats and Republicans who are committed to making this world a better place for all Americans. And with the help of Women's Policy, Inc. and other leaders in the women's community, its list of accomplishments during the next 20 years will be as impressive as those we celebrate tonight.

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**Questions and Answers:**  
***Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues***

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**What is the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues?**

The Caucus is a bi-partisan organization of 50 women Members of the House of Representatives. For the past 20 years, members of the Caucus have put their partisan differences aside to advance issues of particular importance to American women, such as education, health care, and economic equity. These issues are now the primary concern of most American families.

**What difference has the Caucus made?**

During the past 20 years, the Caucus has been responsible for changing the daily rhythms of American life. It has shaped public policies that affect the lives of American women and their families -- and these changes in policy would never have occurred had not Caucus Members joined together in a bipartisan spirit to work together on behalf of all women.

**Why was the Caucus formed?**

The Caucus was formed 20 years ago to provide a Congressional focus and forum for issues that were important to American women -- access to health care, domestic violence, and child support. Women Members of Congress understood then -- as they do now -- that they need to work together in a bi-partisan spirit in order to achieve full equality of opportunity and legal protections for all American women.

**Do we still need the Caucus?**

Despite significant gains during the past 20 years, American women still face discrimination in employment opportunities and pay, access to health care, and legal protections in child support enforcement and domestic violence. American women and their families need the Caucus -- now more than ever -- to provide a Congressional focus and a forum for issues that are so central to the quality of their daily life.

Although the issues have evolved, the Caucus is still working to address many of the same problems that brought them together 20 years ago. In 1977, for example, the newly formed Caucus sat down with Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps to talk about how women-owned businesses could increase their share of federal contracts. The Caucus held a hearing last month on the same topic and learned that women-owned businesses are receiving just two percent of federal contracts.

**Has elimination of Congressional funding affected the work of the Caucus?**

When the House voted in 1995 to abolish legislative service organizations, the Caucus lost its office, budget, and six-person staff. The Congresswomen immediately reorganized as an informal Caucus so they could continue their bipartisan advocacy for women. With no staff or budget, however, the Caucus was unable to continue one of its other primary functions -- serving as an information clearinghouse on Congressional action affecting women.

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To meet this need, the former staff of the Caucus established Women's Policy, Inc. a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide the same high quality, nonpartisan public policy information that was formerly provided by the Caucus. Former Caucus Co Chairs Connie Morella, Nita Lowey, Pat Schroeder and Olympia Snowe serve on the WPI board. WPI publishes a weekly newsletter and quarterly update on Congressional action affecting women. WPI also has published reports on how women fared in the 104th Congress and women's health legislation pending in the 105th Congress.

**What are the major accomplishments of the Caucus?**

Caucus efforts over the past 20 years have led to the enactment of more than 100 laws or provisions of laws that directly benefit women and families, including the following:

**Early Caucus accomplishments (1977-80):**

- o Social Security reform -- Successfully pushed legislation to reduce from 20 to 10 the number of years that a marriage had to last before a surviving or divorced spouse was eligible for benefits.

- o Pregnancy Discrimination Act -- Passage of legislation guaranteeing employment rights to pregnant workers.

- o Other early successes include the provision of job training services for displaced homemakers and mental health services to rape victims; making inadmissible in court evidence of past sexual behavior of rape victims; requirement that former spouses of foreign service employees receive an equitable share of pension and survivor benefits.

**More Caucus accomplishments (1981-1994):**

- o Caucus introduces first of many omnibus legislative packages, the Economic Equity Act, resulting in 1981 in the creation of the dependent care tax credit, homemaker IRAs, and reduced estate taxes for farm spouses.

- o In 1984, Congress approved major retirement equity and child support enforcement legislation, both of which were first introduced as part of the Economic Equity Act. The child support enforcement act allowed states for the first time to garnish the wages of delinquent parents.

- o In 1986, Congress passed law, first proposed by the Caucus, to allow widows and divorced spouses a three-year extension of health insurance coverage.

- o In 1990, in response to request from Caucus, the General Accounting Office confirmed that women had been excluded from NIH sponsored clinical trials. The Caucus introduced its second omnibus legislative package, the Women's Health Equity

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Act, which led to establishment of NIH Office for Research on Women's Health and tough new policy requiring inclusion of women in clinical trials.

- o Other Women's Health Equity Act initiatives also became law, including creation of new CDC programs to provide mammograms and Pap tests to low-income women and prevent infertility in women through better screening and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases; Mammography Quality Assurance Act, requiring inspection and certification of mammography facilities; creation of contraceptive research and infertility research centers; and increased funding authorizations for breast and ovarian cancer research and osteoporosis.

- o In 1993, the Family and Medical Leave Act was signed into law. First introduced in 1985 by Caucus Co-Chair Pat Schroeder, passage of the FMLA was one of the Caucus highest priorities for 8 years.

- o In 1994, Caucus secures House passage of the Violence against Women Act, which provided \$1.6 billion over 6 years for efforts to prevent violence against women. Since its enactment, the Caucus has worked to secure funding increases for VAWA programs.

#### **Recent Caucus accomplishments (1995-1997)**

- o In 1996, Caucus members won inclusion in health reform bill of provisions barring discrimination by health plans against victims of domestic violence and on the basis of genetic information. Caucus members also successfully fought for significant increase in child care funds made available to states under welfare reform.

- o Caucus effort led to criminalization of female genital mutilation in U.S. and educational campaign to educate immigrant communities about dangers of the practice.

- o In 1997, Caucus members won inclusion in Balanced Budget Act of provisions expanding Medicare coverage of mammograms and bone mass measurement.

- o In 1997, Caucus has held hearings on early child development and issues affecting women-owned businesses. A hearing is planned in October on contraceptive technology.

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In 1981, the Congresswomen invited their male colleagues to join the Caucus and changed the organization's name to the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. In 1993, 24 newly elected Congresswomen arrived on Capitol Hill, nearly doubling the number of women in the Caucus. Now when the Congresswomen met with a cabinet official, they had to reserve a committee room to accommodate their new membership.

Still, the Congresswomen frequently gathered - both formally and informally -- in their room in the Capitol. In 1990, the House unanimously approved a Caucus-inspired resolution to honor long-time Caucus Secretary Lindy Boggs by naming the room the Corrine "Lindy" Boggs Congressional Women's Reading Room.

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Over the past 20 years, Caucus members have successfully worked to improve the lives of women and families. They have fought to open the doors of opportunity for women and girls in both school and work. They have championed fair credit, tougher child support enforcement, equitable pay and retirement income. And they have led efforts to promote women's health and protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, securing several billion dollars for these efforts.

Although its members have numbered just over 10 percent of the House -- at its highest point -- the influence of Caucus members has far exceeded their small numbers. The Caucus' long list of legislative accomplishments includes:

The Pregnancy Discrimination Act...The Child Support Enforcement Act...The Retirement Equity Act...The Civil Rights Restoration Act...The Women's Business Ownership Act...The Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Prevention Act...The Mammography Quality Standards Act...The Family and Medical Leave Act...and the Violence Against Women Act...to name just a few.

And for many years the Caucus has helped set the public policy agenda for women and families through the introduction of omnibus legislation -- the Economic Equity Act, the Women's Health Equity Act, and the Gender Equity in Education Act.

But the influence of the Caucus extends far beyond its impressive list of legislative achievements and far beyond the borders of the United States. Caucus members have championed women's issues around the globe from Cambodia to Cairo to Beijing, working to bring international attention to the plight of refugees and representing the Congress at U.N. world conferences on women and on population and development.

The Caucus has also served as an inspiration and a model for women parliamentarians the world over -- whose image of American democracy is shaped in part by the example of women from different political parties working together to improve the lives of women and families.

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Today, 20 years after the Caucus' founding, its membership has grown from 15 to 50. These Congresswomen-at-large are nearly as diverse as the constituency of women they represent. They come from 20 states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands; they are African American, Latina, Asian American, and Caucasian.

Together, these 50 Congresswomen bring to Congress a wealth of experience as mayors and state legislators, businesswomen and lawyers, doctors and nurses, educators and community activists, mothers and grandmothers.

As the number of Congresswomen has grown, so too has their influence. Members of the Caucus are moving up the ranks of leadership in both the Republican and Democratic parties. In 1990, when the Caucus launched an investigation into the exclusion of women from clinical trials funded by the National Institutes of Health, not one woman sat on the appropriations subcommittee that oversees NIH's funding. Today four women serve on that subcommittee. In fact, women now sit on every committee in the House and they are making a difference.

In 1997, Caucus members work together on 14 legislative teams sharply focused on issues pending before Congress. From preventive health services to retirement equity to gender bias in the military, teams leaders and team members set a policy agenda and work together to make it happen. The Congresswomen took its agenda to the White House last spring. In July, the Caucus held its first ever hearing to examine the educational needs of children from 0-3. A second hearing examined the financial needs of women businessowners, while a third will focus on contraceptive research.

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The bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues begins its next 20 years as an organization whose leadership has made a difference for women and families across America and around the world.

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### Suggested talking points for Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues gala:

Congratulations to Members of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues on its 20 years of leadership for women and families and to Women's Policy, Inc. for hosting this special event.

Pay special tribute to Margaret Heckler and Elizabeth Holtzman who 20 years ago had the vision to create a bipartisan Caucus committed to women and family issues.

The key to the Caucus' strength and success through the years has been its bipartisanship and its able leadership, including:

-- former Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder and Senator Olympia Snowe, who together led the Caucus for a dozen years;

-- Congresswomen Constance Morella and Nita Lowey, who rebuilt the Caucus after the House voted to defund House caucuses;

-- and of course, Congresswomen Nancy Johnson and Eleanor Holmes Norton whose leadership brings us here tonight.

But these eight people did not do it alone. Over the years, 92 Congresswomen have served on the Caucus' Executive Committee as well as several hundred male Members of Congress who supported the Caucus through their membership.

Pay tribute to the 50 Congresswomen now in the Caucus as well as the former Caucus members who are here tonight. Also recognize the other Members of the 105th Congress who are here tonight to show their appreciation for the Caucus.

The legacy of the Caucus over the past 20 years has been one of Democratic and Republican women putting aside their partisan differences to work for the better good of American women and their families. Their legacy has also been one of solid achievement for women and families.

For 20 years, the Caucus has shaped the Congressional agenda on some of the most important issues affecting women and their families -- child care, health care, education, child support enforcement, domestic violence, economic equity, and fairness in the workplace.

One way the Caucus has shaped the agenda is by introducing omnibus legislative packages containing bills introduced by both Republican and Democratic women. These packages have addressed economic equity, women's health, and gender equity in education.

See attached for additional information about the Caucus and specific Caucus accomplishments. Highlight the Family and Medical Leave Act, which was first introduced by Caucus Co-Chair Patricia Schroeder in 1985; the Violence against Women Act, championed by a bipartisan group of women in the House who each year have succeeded in securing full funding for VAWA programs; the Child Care and Development Block Grant, for which the bipartisan Caucus

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## Women's Policy, Inc.

On January 4, 1995, the House of Representatives voted to abolish several dozen legislative service organizations that had been created to provide information and policy research to Members of Congress. One of these organizations was the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues.

For 18 years, the Caucus had served both as an advocate for women and families and as an information clearinghouse on legislative action affecting women. Following the January 1995 vote, the Congresswomen reorganized themselves into an informal caucus by the same name, to keep alive their bipartisan advocacy on behalf of women.

While the Congresswomen continued to work together as a Caucus, the House vote to do away with legislative service organizations cost the group its office, staff, and budget. Without these resources, the Caucus was no longer able to provide the highly respected information services the Members had come to depend upon.

With the encouragement of the Congresswomen, two former members of the Caucus staff started Women's Policy, Inc. (WPI), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide nonpartisan public policy research and information services to policy makers, policy advocates, and the public on issues important to women and families.

Together, Lesley Primmer, the former Caucus' executive director, and Marjorie Sims, the Caucus' senior legislative assistant, opened WPI's new offices, first in the basement of the historic Sewall-Belmont House and soon thereafter in office space donated by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Besides Primmer and Sims, WPI's founding board included Reps. Constance Morella and Nita Lowey, the Co-Chairs of the Caucus in the 104th Congress, and Dr. Susan Wood, the former Caucus' deputy director, who moved to the Public Health Service Office of Women's Health after the Caucus lost its funding. Sen. Olympia Snowe and former Rep. Patricia Schroeder joined the WPI board in 1997.

The need for specialized coverage of Congressional action affecting women and families has never been greater. To meet this need, WPI publishes the *Source on Women's Issues in Congress*, a weekly newsletter, as well as a quarterly legislative status report and briefing papers on issues before Congress. WPI also has published major reports on women's health and on gains and losses for women in the 104th Congress.

The informational services provided by Women's Policy, Inc. are comprehensive in scope. WPI understands the informational needs of Members of Congress and their staffs and brings a 20-year institutional memory to its coverage of these issues. Its publications are read by Members of Congress, senior staff, executive branch

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officials, policy advocates, and academics.

In cooperation with the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, WPI has sponsored Capitol Hill briefings on women's health legislation, adolescent pregnancy prevention, osteoporosis, and cardiovascular disease in women.

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### Summary of key Caucus accomplishments during its first 20 years:

1977 -- Reps. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY) and Margaret Heckler (R-MA) were named to head the newly formed Congresswomen's Caucus. The group of 15 Congresswomen focused its early efforts on eliminating sex discrimination and improving women's employment opportunities in the federal government. Congress approved legislation to reduce from 20 to 10 the number of years that a marriage had to last before a surviving or divorced spouse was eligible for Social Security benefits on her former husband's earning record. [There were 18 women in the House and 8 in the Senate.]

1978 -- The Caucus led a successful effort to gain an extension of the ratification period for the Equal Rights Amendment. Also that year, Congress passed landmark legislation, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, which guaranteed employment rights to pregnant workers. Existing federal programs were amended to provide job training services to displaced homemakers and mental health services to rape victims. Congress also passed a law making inadmissible in court evidence of past sexual behavior of rape victims in most circumstances.

1979 -- Caucus members traveled to Cambodia on "errand of conscience" to aid refugees. Double digit inflation spurred Caucus to focus on economic equity for women, ranging from women's business opportunities to the susceptibility of women workers to unemployment. Also that year, Congress created the Office of Civil Rights at the Education Department to enforce Title IX ban against sex discrimination in education. Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO) became the Democratic co-chair of the Congresswomen's Caucus, following Rep. Holtzman's decision to seek the Senate. [There were 16 women in the House and 7 in the Senate.]

1980 -- The Caucus was instrumental in securing passage of legislation to provide an equitable share of pension and survivor benefits to former spouses of foreign service employees. The Caucus also called for a congressional investigation of the extent to which women-owned businesses were gaining access to federal contracts. Congress voted to require federal agencies to report dollar value of all federal contracts awarded to small, minority-owned and female-owned businesses.

1981 -- Caucus joined Senate in introducing first Economic Equity Act, a package of legislation to address key economic security issues. As a result, Congress established the dependent care tax credit for working families; it also created homemaker IRAs and eased the estate tax burden on farm spouses. Sandra Day O'Connor was sworn in as the first woman associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. After opening its membership to male Members of Congress, the Congresswomen's Caucus changed its name to the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. [There were 23 women in the House and two in the Senate.]

1982 -- At the urging of the Caucus, the Joint Economic Committee convened hearings on the economic status of women and its impact on family income.

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Congress extended flex-time arrangements for federal workers and made former military spouses eligible for health benefits. The emergence of a "gender gap" in the mid-term congressional elections stole the political spotlight and influenced legislative action on women's issues at the state and national levels.

**1983** -- With new-found attention to women's issues, virtually every piece of the Caucus' Economic Equity Act was the subject of congressional hearings during 1983, including tax and retirement matters, dependent care, nondiscrimination in insurance, and child support enforcement. Concern for women's employment needs led to enactment of provisions important to working women in a major jobs bill passed that year. Rep. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) was elected as the Republican co-chair of the Caucus, following the defeat of Rep. Heckler. [There were 22 women in the House, up one from the previous year, and two women in the Senate.]

**1984** -- The Caucus's Economic Equity Act was the driving force behind the enactment of important retirement equity and child support enforcement legislation. For the first time, states were required to implement automatic wage-withholding to collect child support from delinquent parents, while states were required to enforce the child support orders of other states. New sex equity requirements for vocational education programs were enacted, as was a new federal program to fund before and after-school child care programs. Caucus member Geraldine Ferraro was nominated for vice-president, the first time a woman ran for that office on a major party ticket.

**1985** -- Legislation to provide temporary leave for parents of newborns and seriously ill children and workers with serious health problems was introduced for the first time, sparking an eight year campaign that ended with the 1993 enactment of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Congress overturned a controversial administration effort to promote natural family planning by reinstating the requirement that international family planning providers offer information and referrals for all contraceptive options. [There were 22 women in the House and 2 in the Senate]

**1986** -- The Caucus achieved significant success on several of its economic equity provisions, including enactment of more equitable tax treatment for single parents and a three-year extension of health insurance coverage for widows and divorced persons. Congress also passed major legislation to increase accessibility of a college education to lower-income and nontraditional students and to allow states to expand Medicaid coverage to pregnant women and infants. Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) was the first Democratic woman elected to the Senate without first having been elected or appointed to fill a vacant seat.

**1987** -- The Caucus celebrated its 10th anniversary as the nation marked the 100th Congress and the 200th anniversary of the Constitution. Two important Supreme Court decisions upheld the constitutional use of affirmative action plans for women and ruled that states could force all-male clubs to admit female members. Congress

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passed legislation establishing child care facilities in public housing projects. [The number of women in the House increased by one to 23; the number of women in the Senate remained at two.]

**1988 --** Congress approved the first major overhaul of the nation's welfare system, including in it a requirement that child care services be guaranteed to all parents participating in job training and work programs. The package also strengthened the nation's child support enforcement system. The Caucus also won passage of legislation to address the spousal impoverishment faced by many elderly women when their spouses entered nursing homes. Another important Caucus priority was achieved when Congress finally restored institution-wide coverage of Title IX and other civil rights laws, following a controversial Supreme Court decision to narrow it. Congress extended the fair housing law, making it illegal for the first time to discriminate on the basis of family status. Congress also passed the Women's Business Ownership Act aimed at ending discrimination in credit to women business owners and establishing a new program to provide technical assistance to women entrepreneurs.

**1989 --** The Caucus continued to push Congress to approve the Family and Medical Leave Act as well as new legislation to increase the availability, quality, and affordability of child care. Congress increased funding for maternal and child health programs and required states to expand their Medicaid programs to cover pregnant women and children under six. [Record high of 29 women serving in the House along with two in the Senate.]

**1990 --** Congress finally approved the first major child care legislation in 20 years, which authorized nearly \$20 billion to better meet the child care needs of low-income working families. The issue of women's health exploded following the release of a General Accounting Office (GAO) report requested by the Caucus that confirmed the wide-spread exclusion of women from federally funded medical research. The Caucus first introduced its omnibus Women's Health Equity Act and Caucus members traveled to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to learn what officials there planned to do to improve research on women's health issues. Plans to create the NIH Office of Research on Women's Health were announced at this meeting. Congress voted to create a new grant program to provide mammograms and Pap smears to low-income women and required colleges to provide information on campus crime rates.

**1991 --** Congress approved civil rights legislation that expanded remedies for victims of sex discrimination and established a Glass Ceiling Commission to examine barriers to the advancement of women to management positions. It also removed the statutory prohibition against women flying combat missions and required federal job training programs to move women into nontraditional jobs. Rep. Patricia Schroeder became the first woman in nearly 20 years to chair a full committee in the House when she was named as chair of the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families. Dr. Bernadine Healy became the first woman

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director of NIH and immediately undertook a \$600 million women's health initiative. The Caucus challenged the medical research community to win the fight against breast cancer by the year 2000. The Senate narrowly approved Clarence Thomas for the Supreme Court following an extraordinary series of hearings in which an all-male Senate Judiciary Committee challenged a previously unknown law professor named Anita Hill on charges that the nominee had sexually harassed her while they served together at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. [No change in number of women in Congress: 29 in House and 7 in Senate.]

1992 -- The Caucus saw a number of its top priority issues vetoed, including the Family and Medical Leave Act, provisions to improve women's health research, and legislation to overturn the family planning gag rule. Despite these disappointments, Congress established new programs to improve the quality of mammograms and combat infertility through improved prevention of sexually transmitted diseases in women. Congress also directed the Pentagon to make gender neutral assignments to combat positions and expanded college financial aid for nontraditional students, many of whom were women. With public pressure increasing for health care reform, the bipartisan Caucus adopted eight principles to ensure equitable treatment for women should health care reform legislation be adopted. The media labeled 1992 as the "Year of the Woman" in politics as hundreds of women lined up to run for office. In the end, a record 48 women were elected to the House and 6 to the Senate.

1993 -- After an eight year battle, the Family and Medical Leave Act was the first legislation signed into law by newly elected President Clinton. Also enacted during 1993 was the NIH Revitalization Act, which contained a number of provisions aimed at improving women's health research, including the requirement that where appropriate women be included in clinical trials and expanded funding for breast and ovarian cancer research as well as research on osteoporosis, menopause, and contraception and infertility. Congress removed the remaining statutory limitations on women serving in the military. The Earned Income Tax Credit was expanded to help raise poor working families above the poverty level. [The special election of Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison increased to 7 the number of women in the Senate.]

1994 -- With strong bipartisan support from the Caucus, Congress enacted the Violence Against Women Act, which authorized \$1.6 billion over six years for services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Congress also passed legislation to ensure more equitable treatment for women and girls in education and required the State Department to place greater priority on the health and safety needs of refugee women and children. Congress required federal agencies to establish a five percent goal for contracting with women-owned businesses and barred small business loans to persons who refused to pay child support obligations. While the Caucus was successful at ensuring that the health care reform packages before Congress included coverage of comprehensive women's health services, Congress adjourned without completing action on the legislation.

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**1995** -- One of the first acts of the new Congress was to approve legislation applying civil rights and employment statutes to itself, long a priority of the Caucus. [The number of women in the House remained the same at 48; the number of women in the Senate increased by one with the election of former Caucus Co-Chair Olympia Snowe.] One of the first votes of the 104th Congress was to defund the legislative offices of House caucuses, including the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. Reps. Constance Morella (R-MD) and Nita Lowey (D-NY) were named to co-chair the reorganized Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues.

**1996** -- One of the major accomplishments of the year was enactment of legislation to guarantee continued health insurance coverage for workers who change or lose their jobs. The bill included Women's Health Equity Act provisions barring insurers from discrimination against individuals on the basis of genetic information or evidence of domestic violence. In addition, Congress required insurers to expand hospital stays for new mothers and improve coverage of mental health services. Congress also criminalized female genital mutilation (FGM) in this country, authorized an educational campaign to educate immigrant communities on the danger of the practice, and required U.S. representatives to oppose loans to countries which practice FGM. Welfare reform legislation approved by Congress included \$22 billion for child care funding over seven years as well as a variety of measures aimed at strengthening state efforts to collect child support.

**OFFICE FOR WOMEN'S INITIATIVES AND OUTREACH**TO: Laura CappsFAX: 65709DATE: 10/2NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 16

FROM:

☐ Audrey Tayse Haynes, Director  
☐ Sandra Seba, Agency Representative  
☒ Robin Leeds, Agency Representative  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES:

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**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
**OFFICE FOR WOMEN'S INITIATIVES AND OUTREACH**  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20503  
PHONE: (202) 456-7300 FAX: (202) 456-7311

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**Questions and Answers:**  
***Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues***

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**What is the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues?**

The Caucus is a bi-partisan organization of 50 women Members of the House of Representatives. For the past 20 years, members of the Caucus have put their partisan differences aside to advance issues of particular importance to American women, such as education, health care, and economic equity. These issues are now the primary concern of most American families.

**What difference has the Caucus made?**

During the past 20 years, the Caucus has been responsible for changing the daily rhythms of American life. It has shaped public policies that affect the lives of American women and their families -- and these changes in policy would never have occurred had not Caucus Members joined together in a bipartisan spirit to work together on behalf of all women.

**Why was the Caucus formed?**

The Caucus was formed 20 years ago to provide a Congressional focus and forum for issues that were important to American women -- access to health care, domestic violence, and child support. Women Members of Congress understood then -- as they do now -- that they need to work together in a bi-partisan spirit in order to achieve full equality of opportunity and legal protections for all American women.

**Do we still need the Caucus?**

Despite significant gains during the past 20 years, American women still face discrimination in employment opportunities and pay, access to health care, and legal protections in child support enforcement and domestic violence. American women and their families need the Caucus -- now more than ever -- to provide a Congressional focus and a forum for issues that are so central to the quality of their daily life.

Although the issues have evolved, the Caucus is still working to address many of the same problems that brought them together 20 years ago. In 1977, for example, the newly formed Caucus sat down with Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps to talk about how women-owned businesses could increase their share of federal contracts. The Caucus held a hearing last month on the same topic and learned that women-owned businesses are receiving just two percent of federal contracts.

**Has elimination of Congressional funding affected the work of the Caucus?**

When the House voted in 1995 to abolish legislative service organizations, the Caucus lost its office, budget, and six-person staff. The Congresswomen immediately reorganized as an informal Caucus so they could continue their bipartisan advocacy for women. With no staff or budget, however, the Caucus was unable to continue one of its other primary functions -- serving as an information clearinghouse on Congressional action affecting women.

To meet this need, the former staff of the Caucus established Women's Policy, Inc. a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide the same high quality, nonpartisan public policy information that was formerly provided by the Caucus. Former Caucus Co-Chairs Connie Morella, Nita Lowey, Pat Schroeder and Olympia Snowe serve on the WPI board. WPI publishes a weekly newsletter and quarterly update on Congressional action affecting women. WPI also has published reports on how women fared in the 104th Congress and women's health legislation pending in the 105th Congress.

#### **What are the major accomplishments of the Caucus?**

Caucus efforts over the past 20 years have led to the enactment of more than 100 laws or provisions of laws that directly benefit women and families, including the following:

##### **Early Caucus accomplishments (1977-80):**

- o Social Security reform -- Successfully pushed legislation to reduce from 20 to 10 the number of years that a marriage had to last before a surviving or divorced spouse was eligible for benefits.

- o Pregnancy Discrimination Act -- Passage of legislation guaranteeing employment rights to pregnant workers.

- o Other early successes include the provision of job training services for displaced homemakers and mental health services to rape victims; making inadmissible in court evidence of past sexual behavior of rape victims; requirement that former spouses of foreign service employees receive an equitable share of pension and survivor benefits.

##### **More Caucus accomplishments (1981-1994):**

- o Caucus introduces first of many omnibus legislative packages, the Economic Equity Act, resulting in 1981 in the creation of the dependent care tax credit, homemaker IRAs, and reduced estate taxes for farm spouses.

- o In 1984, Congress approved major retirement equity and child support enforcement legislation, both of which were first introduced as part of the Economic Equity Act. The child support enforcement act allowed states for the first time to garnish the wages of delinquent parents.

- o In 1986, Congress passed law, first proposed by the Caucus, to allow widows and divorced spouses a three-year extension of health insurance coverage.

- o In 1990, in response to request from Caucus, the General Accounting Office confirmed that women had been excluded from NIH-sponsored clinical trials. The Caucus introduced its second omnibus legislative package, the Women's Health Equity

Act, which led to establishment of NIH Office for Research on Women's Health and tough new policy requiring inclusion of women in clinical trials.

- o Other Women's Health Equity Act initiatives also became law, including creation of new CDC programs to provide mammograms and Pap tests to low-income women and prevent infertility in women through better screening and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases; Mammography Quality Assurance Act, requiring inspection and certification of mammography facilities; creation of contraceptive research and infertility research centers; and increased funding authorizations for breast and ovarian cancer research and osteoporosis.

- o In 1993, the Family and Medical Leave Act was signed into law. First introduced in 1985 by Caucus Co-Chair Pat Schroeder, passage of the FMLA was one of the Caucus highest priorities for 8 years.

- o In 1994, Caucus secures House passage of the Violence against Women Act, which provided \$1.6 billion over 6 years for efforts to prevent violence against women. Since its enactment, the Caucus has worked to secure funding increases for VAWA programs.

#### **Recent Caucus accomplishments (1995-1997)**

- o In 1996, Caucus members won inclusion in health reform bill of provisions barring discrimination by health plans against victims of domestic violence and on the basis of genetic information. Caucus members also successfully fought for significant increase in child care funds made available to states under welfare reform.

- o Caucus effort led to criminalization of female genital mutilation in U.S. and educational campaign to educate immigrant communities about dangers of the practice.

- o In 1997, Caucus members won inclusion in Balanced Budget Act of provisions expanding Medicare coverage of mammograms and bone mass measurement.

- o In 1997, Caucus has held hearings on early child development and issues affecting women-owned businesses. A hearing is planned in October on contraceptive technology.

## PARTICIPANTS

### I. Pre-brief

John Hilley  
Susan Brophy  
Janet Murguia  
Betsy Myers  
Maria Echaveste  
Ann Lewis

### II. Attendees

#### Confirmed Yes

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA)  
Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA)  
Sen. Carol Mosely-Braun (D-IL)  
Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)  
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)  
Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT)  
Rep. Julie Carson (D-IN)  
Rep. Eva Clayton (D-NC)  
Rep. Pat Danner (D-MO)  
Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA)  
Rep. Tille Fowler (R-FL)  
Rep. Donna Green (D-VI)  
Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)  
Rep. Jane Harman (D-CA)  
Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)  
Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)  
Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-CA)  
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)  
Rep. Sue Kelly (R-NY)  
Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-MI)  
Rep. Constance Morella (R-MD)  
Rep. Deborah Pryce (R-OH)  
Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO)  
Rep. Deborah Ann Stabenow (D-MI)  
Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)  
Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA)  
Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY)  
Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA)  
Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL)  
Rep. Karen Thurman (D-FL)  
Rep. Lynn Rivers (D-MI)

Rep. Darlene Hooley (D-OR)  
Rep. Patsy Mink (D-HI)  
Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)  
Rep. Susan Molinari (R-NY) *tenative*  
Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)  
Rep. Carrie Meek (D-FL)

Pending

Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)  
Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)  
Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)  
Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME)  
Rep. Barbara Kennelly (D-CT)  
Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-GA)  
Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)  
Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX)

Confirmed No

Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)  
Rep. Karen McCarthy (D-MO)  
Rep. Elizabeth Furse (D-OR)  
Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY)  
Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)  
Rep. Marge Roukema (R-CT)  
Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)  
Rep. Sue Myrick (R-NC)

Administration Attendees

John Hilley  
Susan Brophy  
Janet Murguia  
Betsy Myers  
Maria Echaveste  
Ann Lewis  
Barbara Chow  
Tracey Thorton  
Lucia Wyman

**Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues**

***Women's Access to Contraceptive Technology Hearing***

**Thursday, Oct. 30, 1997**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Caucus Room--Cannon House Office Building**

**Purpose:**

- ▶ Examine the limitations and related consequences of contraceptive options available to women and medical providers in the U.S. relative to other developed countries.
- ▶ Identify and assess the factors contributing to limited research on contraceptive technology.
- ▶ Explore recommendations to address barriers to new contraceptive technologies.

**Background:**

Efforts to develop new contraceptives have stalled, contributing to a high rate of unintended pregnancies and abortions in the United States -- much higher than other developed countries.

- ▶ ***Sterilization is the most commonly used form of contraception in the U.S.***
- ▶ ***60% of all pregnancies in the U.S. are unintended.***
- ▶ ***Almost one half of unintended pregnancies result from contraceptive methods that did not work.***
- ▶ ***44% of unintended pregnancies in the U.S. end in abortion.***
- ▶ ***50% of the typical fee-for-service insurance plans do not cover any reversible contraceptive method.***

## PANELS

### **Panel 1: Access to Contraception Choices (Erin)**

#### **Witnesses:**

#### **Focus:**

Experiences in providing, obtaining and using contraceptives. Testimony may review: prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STD), effectiveness (unintended pregnancies), health concerns (side effects), emergency contraception, geographic availability.

### **Panel 2: Contraceptive Technology in the United States (Joan)**

#### **Witnesses:**

**Dr. Florence Haseltine**, Director, Center for Population Research, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

**Roderick Mackenzie**, Chairman and CEO, Gynetics, Inc. and past President of Ortho Pharmaceutical Corporation

#### **Focus:**

*Discussion of current status of NIH and industry contraceptive research  
Testimony may reveal: reasons for little attention to new contraceptive technology; economic impact of ineffective contraceptive choices (unintended pregnancies and abortions); need for more reversible options; links between contraception and STD prevention (microbicides).*

### **Panel 3: Recommendations: Priorities for Improvement (Erin and Joan)**

#### **Witnesses:**

**Dr. Felicia Stewart**, Director, Reproductive Health Programs, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

**Dr. Polly Harrison**, Senior Program Officer, The Institute of Medicine, the National Academy of Sciences

#### **Focus:**

*Priorities for action.*

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#### **Focus:**

*Priorities for action.*

Date: 10/18/97 Time: 16:55  
WServicewomen get their own monument

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) Ann Freeman came to Washington with her father in 1918 to look at the monuments. On the streets of a capital at war she saw a sight she'd never seen: women in uniforms.

She liked what she saw, went back home to New York and enlisted in the Navy as a yeoman.

On Saturday, she was back in Washington, a guest of honor at a ceremony to dedicate a monument at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery to her and hundreds of thousands of her sisters in uniform.

"It's a dream," the 96-year-old sailor said. "In our gender, we've got everything now. In my time, this was unthinkable."

Under leaden skies, government and military leaders extolled the dedication to their country of the almost 2 million American servicewomen past and present the \$21.5 million memorial honors. Entertainers Kenny Rogers and Patti Austin paid special tribute with a song. And a commemorative postage stamp bearing the faces of five servicewomen was presented.

"The ... memorial is a living reminder that we are all involved, men and women, when it comes to protecting America's security," said President Clinton in a videotaped message.

"This knowledge was sometimes slow in coming," he added. "For much of our history many Americans felt that a woman's place should be closer to the home front than the front lines. Still our women volunteered, struggling for freedom all around the world."

Frieda Hardin, a 101-year-old former sailor, sat with Freeman on the dais in front of a reflecting pool, both reminders of a day when women's duties in the service were much more limited.

Hardin, who also joined the World War I Navy in 1918 as a yeoman, said the memorial was long overdue.

Despite her frailty, the sailor stood almost ramrod straight as she read from a prepared statement, her voice fading occasionally.

"When I served in the Navy women were not even allowed to vote. Now, women occupy important offices," she said to cheers from the thousands of servicewomen and others who attended the ceremony.

"In my 101 years of living, I have observed many wonderful achievements but none as important or as meaningful as ... women ... taking their rightful place in society," she said.

Saturday's ceremony was the highlight of four days of events celebrating the Women in Military Service for America Memorial.

Organizers say they want the monument to educate a public that knows little about the long and varied history of women in the U.S. armed forces dating from the Revolutionary War.

Vice President Al Gore, who attended the ceremony, said the "memorial ... says to each and every servicewoman past and present, 'Thank you.'"

"This memorial has been forged by the countless acts of bravery and sacrifice of generations of America's servicewomen, by their centuries of patriotism and patience, their blood and valor, their pain and perseverance."

Dahrie Christiansen sat in the audience, listening raptly, a yellow rose and a faded black and white picture of a young woman in uniform her mother, Women's Army Corps 1st Lt. Jean Axton on her lap.

Christiansen said her mother, who served in World War II, wanted desperately to attend the ceremony but succumbed to a long illness seven months ago.

``She was so proud of her service,`` said Christiansen, choking back tears.

Mary Connor, who served as a WAC corporal in World War II in New Guinea, reminisced about the days she dated her husband at their base. At that time, WACs had to be escorted by their male colleagues because only soldiers were allowed to carry guns.

``They were our protectors. That was the time when we had men and women,`` said Connor, 75, dressed in the same olive drab uniform she wore when she served, her hat interspersed with small moth holes.

As Freeman waited for the ceremony to begin, she sat in a maroon suit, a black hat perched on her white hair, watching the younger generation of servicewomen mill about in the audience.

``In school,`` she said, ``you always knew the girls were as smart as the boys.``

APNP-10-18-97 1658EDT

Date: 10/20/97 Time: 11:06

THE WHITE HOUSE: President names Ida Castro as Director of the Women's Bureau at the Dept of Labor

OCT 20, 1997, M2 Communications - The President today announced his nomination of Ida L. Castro to serve as the Director of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor.

Ida L. Castro, of New York, New York, currently serves as the Acting Director of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor, where she is responsible for formulating standards and policies that promote the welfare of wage earning women. During her tenure, she conducted the first National Working Women's Summit, convening 25,000 women via satellite and listening to their concerns. Ms. Castro, an attorney who has been actively involved in women's and labor issues throughout her career, has served in this capacity since March 1996. Previously, Ms. Castro served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Worker's Compensation Programs for the Employment Standards Administration at the Department of Labor. Prior to joining the Department of Labor, Ms. Castro served as Senior Legal Counsel for Legal Affairs for the New York City Health and Hospital Corporation from 1990-1994. Ms. Castro was Special Counsel to the President and Director of Labor Relations at Hostos Community College of the City University of New York from 1988-1990.

Ms. Castro received a B.A. degree from the University of Puerto Rico and M.A. and J.D. degrees from Rutgers University.

The Director of the Women's Bureau advises and assists the Secretary of Labor in the development of the Department of Labor policies and programs which promote the welfare of wage earning women and seek to improve their working conditions, increase their efficiency and advance their opportunities for profitable employment.

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