
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8033

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Thibaudeau, Keiser, Franklin, Jacobsen, Kohl-Welles and Kline

Read first time 01/20/2006. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Each year more than five hundred twenty-nine thousand
9 women die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth and fifty
10 million women suffer from some adverse health consequence as a result
11 of childbirth; and

12 WHEREAS, Roughly two hundred one million women in low-income
13 countries would use safe, effective contraception methods if they were
14 available; and

15 WHEREAS, More than forty-two million people are infected with
16 HIV/AIDS today, with fourteen thousand new infections every day, half
17 of which are women; and

18 WHEREAS, An estimated eighty-two million girls currently living in
19 low-income countries will be married before their eighteenth birthdays;
20 and

1 WHEREAS, An estimated one hundred thirty million girls and women
2 have undergone female genital cutting; and

3 WHEREAS, As many as one in every three women in the world has been
4 beaten, coerced into sex, or abused in some other way; and

5 WHEREAS, The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the largest
6 source of international assistance for women's health care -- including
7 family planning, maternal health, and HIV prevention -- in more than
8 one hundred forty countries around the world; and

9 WHEREAS, UNFPA is a leader in international efforts to promote the
10 rights of women through education and the prevention of gender-based
11 violence; and

12 WHEREAS, UNFPA is a leader in providing humanitarian assistance for
13 the particular needs of women in disaster and postconflict situations;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The United States helped found UNFPA and has historically
16 been its leading supporter; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States Congress approved one hundred twenty-
18 seven million dollars in fiscal years 2002-2005 for UNFPA, but these
19 funds have been withheld by the Bush Administration; and

20 WHEREAS, The United States decision to withhold critical funds from
21 UNFPA is depriving women of vital health services and programs that
22 help them move beyond the traditional roles assigned to them that they
23 may not want, so that they can more fully participate in society;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
25 States government renew funding for UNFPA to promote the health and
26 rights of women around the world.

27 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
28 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
29 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
30 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
31 Washington.

--- END ---