



September 30, 2008

Dear Members of Congress,

The undersigned organizations —members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander, African American, and Latina communities, reproductive health providers, anti-violence activists, racial justice and women’s rights activists, and the reproductive rights and justice community — have a demonstrated commitment to gender and racial equality in the United States.

This week, Rep. Trent Franks introduced a bill purporting to address gender and racial inequality. In fact, this measure will have exactly the opposite effect. Although not yet publicly available, Rep. Franks’ description of the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act makes it clear that it will limit access to abortion care for some women. It is simply more of the same from anti-choice extremists in the House committed to undermining women’s health.

Although Rep. Franks will represent it as such, this proposed measure is not a legitimate effort to tackle the serious issues of racial and gender inequality. Rather, the bill will effectively exacerbate already existing disparities by limiting some women’s access to comprehensive reproductive health care and penalizing health care providers. Instead of addressing health disparities and ensuring accessible and culturally competent medical care for all women, the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act will further isolate and stigmatize some women—particularly those in the Asian American and Pacific Islander and African American communities—from exercising their fundamental human right to make and implement decisions about their reproductive lives.

We ask you not to be distracted by this kind of unfounded, misinformed, and thinly-veiled attempt to limit the decision-making authority of women, and urge you to oppose this legislation. Moreover, we invite you to partner with us to put forth real solutions in the 111th Congress that will eliminate racial, ethnic, and gender disparities in health care access and information.

Sincerely,

Generations Ahead

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

SisterSong

ACCESS/Women's Health Rights Coalition

Allentown Women's Center

Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice

Association of Reproductive Health Professionals

Catholics for Choice

Center for Inquiry

Center for Reproductive Rights

Chicago Abortion Fund

Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program at Hampshire College

Hmong National Development

Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism

Korean American Resource & Cultural Center, Chicago, IL

Korean Resource Center, Los Angeles, CA

Law Students for Reproductive Justice

Manavi

NARAL Pro-Choice America

NARAL Pro-Choice Washington

National Abortion Federation

National Council of Jewish Women

National Korean American Service & Education Consortium

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

National Organization for Women

National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Law Center
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, Inc.
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
South Asian Americans Leading Together
Southern Tier Women's Services
SPARK Reproductive Justice Now
The Center for Genetics and Society
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations