

September 2003

Dear Feminist Activist:

We are writing to invite each of our Feminist Majority Leadership Alliances to co-sponsor a historic march to **SAVE WOMEN'S LIVES – MARCH for FREEDOM of CHOICE**. This milestone event, to take place **April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in Washington, DC**, we hope will become the largest march in history to sound the alarm that women's fundamental reproductive freedoms are in danger.

Right now *Roe v. Wade* hangs by a thread in the U.S. Supreme court. The addition of even one more anti-choice Justice could result in the reversal of *Roe* or the imposition of such draconian restrictions that women could again be forced to turn to illegal abortions. The nation's courts are being packed with judges hostile to women's rights. The president and the majorities of both chambers of the U.S. Congress are anti-choice. At the state level, restriction after restriction is being passed to limit access to family planning and abortion.

The overwhelming majority of our nation supports reproductive choice, especially among young women, with the latest polls showing 76% supporting reproductive rights. Yet many are unaware of the threats. We must let the nation know that women's fundamental reproductive freedoms – including access to birth control as well as safe and legal abortion – are in danger.

Only a large-scale march in the nation's capitol can create the momentum that this decisive moment in history requires – and send the message that the American people will not allow our freedoms to be taken away.

For the first time in the history of the women's rights movement, a march is being called and organized by four major women's rights groups— the Feminist Majority, NARAL Pro-Choice America, the National Organization for Women, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

It has been a dozen years since the historic 1992 march when some 750,000 people marched on Washington. We must do it again – but this time it must be bigger. Our massive numbers, our impassioned voices, and our mobilized majority are our best hope to protect reproductive rights.

Historically, college students have comprised of one-third of all March participants. For this March to be truly the voice of the people, we need the participation and support of college campuses nationwide. We are determined that young people play an active role in organizing massive participation in this march.

The March will be processional, composed of delegations from a wide range of groups. Each delegation will be composed of a minimum of 20 people and will carry a uniform official March banner bearing the delegation's name to demonstrate the breadth and depth of support in the U.S. for reproductive freedom.

We are asking each of our FMLA campus co-sponsoring groups to organize as large a delegation as possible. We further hope that your group will reach out to other campus groups—for example, civil rights, ethnic, gay and lesbian, environmental, and others—to become co-sponsors and march in solidarity with all delegations from your campus.

We are asking all co-sponsoring groups to spread the word of the March on their campus, to organize their delegation(s) and to purchase and carry the official tri-colored March banner (timeless replicas of banners carried by the Suffrage Movement that you can use continue to use on campus well after the march.)

We are determined to make this March the largest outpouring of support for the Constitutional right of women to reproductive freedom in history. We will be inviting many dignitaries, elected officials, and celebrities. We want people – women, men and children – from all walks of life and every part of the country to be there.

Please help us make this March the truly historic and uniquely significant event it must be. Let us make certain that the majority that wants abortion kept safe and legal shapes the future direction of our country.

We have enclosed a flyer and fact sheet on the March as well as a Co-sponsorship Form and Delegation Banner Order Form. Tips for organizing, recruiting, and fundraising for your campus delegation are available on our campus website, [www.FeministCampus.org](http://www.FeministCampus.org) or contact a Campus Organizer at [campusteam@feminist.org](mailto:campusteam@feminist.org) for more information. Sign-up now as a Campus Co-sponsor on [www.FeministCampus.org](http://www.FeministCampus.org) and begin receiving regular email updates.

We are counting on you to become a co-sponsor and organize a delegation for April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004. We must March to Save Women's Lives and Freedom of Choice.

For Women's Lives,

Eleanor Smeal  
President, Feminist Majority

Crystal Lander  
Campus Program Director

Debbie Castro  
West Coast Campus Director