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June 9, 2009

RE: Foreign Relations Authorization (H.R. 2410)

Dear Member of Congress:

This is a follow up to the letter we sent you on June 5, in which we urged you to vote against the Foreign Relations Authorization Act (H.R. 2410). We cited the section of the bill establishing the Office for Global Women's Issues, viewed in light of recent pro-abortion actions by the Administration, including Secretary Clinton's proclamations before the Foreign Affairs Committee on April 22 (e.g., "We are now an administration that will protect the rights of women, including their rights to reproductive health care," "reproductive health includes access to abortion," and "you [Congressman Chris Smith] are entitled to advocate . . . anywhere in the world, and so are we.").

In our June 5 letter, we noted that NRLC would withdraw its opposition to the bill if a corrective amendment filed by Congressman Chris Smith was added to the bill.

Unfortunately, the Rules Committee did not make the Smith Amendment in order.

**Therefore, the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) opposes passage of H.R. 2410, and will include the roll call on passage in the NRLC scorecard of votes on key pro-life issues of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. This will be the first scored House roll call of the current Congress.**

We note that the Rules Committee inserted into a Manager's Amendment a clause headed, "Relationship to Other Laws Regarding Abortion," which says that the bill does not affect "existing statutory prohibitions on the use of funds to engage in any activity or effort to alter the laws or policies in effect in any foreign country concerning the circumstances under which abortion is permitted, regulated, or prohibited." **This is a sham, because the law described here does not exist.** The Manager's language has been copied not from a law, but from the *proposed amendment* that Congressman Smith filed with the Rules Committee – the very amendment that the Committee refused to make in order. **It should be obvious that the Manager's clause is a nullity, and that it in no way addresses the objections that NRLC has expressed to the bill.**

Thank you for your consideration of NRLC's opposition to H.R. 2410.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Douglas Johnson".

Douglas Johnson  
Legislative Director