



**REPORT ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**OF THE**

**CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR**

**WOMEN'S ISSUES**

**IN THE 108<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**

**Submitted by**  
**Louise M. Slaughter, Co-Chair**  
**And**  
**Shelley Moore Capito, Co-Chair**

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**Washington, D.C.**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues during the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, we are pleased to submit this report on the accomplishments of the Women's Caucus during the past two years. It has been a tremendous pleasure and honor to work side by side with each Member of the caucus, as a truly bipartisan team dedicated to improving the lives of women and their families in our country and throughout the world.

It has also been a privilege to serve alongside our exceptionally dedicated and enthusiastic Vice-Chairs, Hilda L. Solis and Ginny Brown-Waite. As the incoming Co-Chairs of the Women's Caucus in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, Reps. Brown-Waite and Solis are destined to blaze great new paths for the Caucus. We are also thrilled that two very active and devoted Women's Caucus Members, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Lois Capps, will be the new Vice-Chairs of the Women's Caucus. We hope that all everyone will join us in throwing our wholehearted energy and support behind our new Women's Caucus leadership team in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. Working together, the women Members of the U.S. House of Representatives will reach even higher pinnacles of success in advancing issues of importance to all women.

In addition to the detailed outline of the numerous accomplishments that the Women's Caucus has achieved during the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress enumerated in this report, we have briefly highlighted a few of these initiatives in the executive summary. For example, the Women's Caucus has made significant progress in drawing national attention to the problem of sexual assault of women in the military, which has been a primary concern of the caucus during the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. In March 2004, the Women's Caucus leaders and many other women Members held a hearing on this issue, and subsequently presented the transcript of the hearing to U.S. Department of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Following the hearing, the House unanimously passed an amendment championed by the Women's Caucus leaders that would require the Pentagon to develop a comprehensive and uniform policy to prevent and respond to sexual assault of women in the military. A bipartisan working group within the caucus also drafted landmark legislation to address the issue of sexual assault and domestic violence in the military, which was introduced in November 2004. We have also engaged in several high-level meetings with Pentagon officials to address these issues.

A bipartisan campaign by the Women's Caucus leadership and members succeeded in tripling U.S. contributions for programs supporting women and girls overseas through the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). UNIFEM Executive Director Noleen Heyzer briefed Women's Caucus staff on her agency's innovative programs promoting women's basic human rights and status throughout more than 100 countries. The agency works to reduce women's poverty, end violence against women, halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, and support women's roles in conflict prevention and reconstruction efforts. UNIFEM projects promote peace and stability in areas of strategic interest to the U.S., such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the former Soviet Union. UNIFEM has also been working to stem the tide of violence against women throughout the world by administering the Trust Fund to Support Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women, and this is the first

year that the U.S. is supporting this vital work as part of the increased funding that the Women's Caucus secured for UNIFEM.

Members of the bipartisan Women's Caucus have been working to support fairness and equity in girls' and women's opportunities to participate in school-based athletics programs. While female participation in sports has greatly increased in recent decades, girls and women still remain underrepresented in elementary, high school and college athletics with regard to the availability of opportunities, resources and scholarship funding. In order to help remedy these disparities, the Women's Caucus leadership introduced H.R. 4994, the "High School Athletics Accountability Act." This bill will help high schools improve opportunities for girls in sports, and thereby encourage the participation of both girls and boys in athletics. The High School Athletics Accountability Act requires that high schools report basic data on the number of female and male students in their athletic programs and the expenditures made for their sports teams. Currently high schools are not required to disclose any data on equity in sports, making it difficult for high schools and parents to ensure fairness in their athletics programs. Better information can help high schools and parents of schoolchildren foster fairness in athletic opportunities for girls and boys.

Since its inception, the Women's Caucus has focused on the elimination of violence against women and has supported programs to assist victims of violence. As Co-Chairs of the Women's Caucus, we commemorated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act in 2004 by releasing a new Congressional Research Service report on the benefits brought about by this law as well as the problems that still need to be addressed. In conjunction with Lifetime TV for Women, the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues participated in the annual Stop Violence Against Women Week in March, including briefings, special orders, public service announcements and other initiatives to highlight the importance of bringing an end to violence against women. We have also drawn together bipartisan staff roundtables to work on drafting the legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act in 2005, known as VAWA III.

The Women's Caucus leadership spearheaded H. Con. Res. 413, calling upon the American people to celebrate the accomplishments of the women who served our nation during World War II, who collectively became known as "Rosie the Riveter." Rosie the Riveter became the symbol for all of the women who entered the workforce, taking the place of the men who went away to war, to help ensure the United States victory in that conflict. This resolution passed unanimously, and to our knowledge it is the only piece of legislation that has ever garnered the support and co-sponsorship of every woman Member in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Women's Caucus Members in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress have addressed numerous issues of concern to women in the workplace and women small business owners. For example, they have highlighted the law that Congress passed in 1996 setting a goal of 5% for women and minority-owned businesses in all government contracts. In 2003, women Members from both parties met with the DOD Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization at the Department to discuss the \$200 billion contract awarded to Lockheed Martin to build the Joint Strike Fighter. Of that \$200 billion dollar contract, only \$1.1 million in contracts had gone to women business owners. At the meeting, women Members helped the Department develop a strategy for

reaching out to and contracting with women-owned businesses (either through primes or subcontracts), and to encourage Lockheed Martin to use women-owned businesses as subcontractors on the Joint Strike Fighter to meet or exceed the 5% goal. Members of the Women's Caucus participated in an additional meeting in July 2003 to learn how the Department intended to ensure equity in contracting opportunities. The Members also requested that representatives from Lockheed Martin and Pratt and Whitney discuss their plans to meet the congressionally mandated 5% contracting goal.

Once again, we wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to all of our colleagues in Congress who have demonstrated such a magnificent commitment to improving the lives of women and their families across the United States and throughout the world through the milestone accomplishments detailed in this report. We should all be proud of the successes that we have been able to achieve working together. Thank you for the trust that you placed in us as Co-Chairs of the Women's Caucus, and we join with you in placing that same trust in Congresswomen Ginny Brown-Waite, Hilda L. Solis, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Lois Capps during the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Slaughter  
Co-Chair, Congressional Caucus  
for Women's Issues

Shelley Moore Capito  
Co-Chair, Congressional Caucus  
for Women's Issues

# Women's Caucus Leadership in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress

## Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues:

Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)

## Vice-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues:

Hilda L. Solis (D-CA) and Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL)

# Women Members of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress

**(63 total; 42 Democrats, 21 Republicans; 14% of the U.S. House of Representatives)**

Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)	Shelley Berkley (D-NV)
Judy Biggert (R-IL)	Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)
Mary Bono (R-CA)	Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU)
Corrine Brown (D-FL)	Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL)
Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)	Lois Capps (D-CA)
Julia Carson (D-IN)	Donna Christian-Christensen (D-VI)
Barbara Cubin (R-WY)	JoAnn Davis (R-WV)
Susan Davis (D-CA)	Diana DeGette (D-CO)
Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT)	Jennifer Dunn (R-WA)
Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)	Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
Kay Granger (R-TX)	Jane Harman (D-CA)
Katherine Harris (R-FL)	Melissa Hart (R-PA)
Stephanie Herseth (D-SD)	Darlene Hooley (D-OR)
Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)	Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Nancy L. Johnson (R-CT)	Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH)
Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)	Sue W. Kelly (R-NY)
Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-MI)	Barbara Lee (D-CA)
Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)	Nita M. Lowey (D-NY)
Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY)	Karen McCarthy (D-MO)
Betty McCollum (D-MN)	Denise Majette (D-GA)
Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)	Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA)
Candice Miller (R-MI)	Marilyn Musgrave (R-CO)
Sue Myrick (R-NC)	Grace Napolitano (D-CA)
Anne Northup (R-KY)	Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)
Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)	Deborah Pryce (R-OH)
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)	Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)
Linda Sanchez (D-CA)	Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)
Janice Schakowsky (D-IL)	Louise McIntosh Slaughter (D-NY)
Hilda Solis (D-CA)	Ellen O. Tauscher (D-CA)
Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY)	Maxine Waters (D-CA)
Diane Watson (D-CA)	Heather Wilson (R-NM)
Lynn C. Woolsey (D-CA)	

## WOMEN'S CAUCUS PHOTO GALLERY



*Women's Caucus "Women in the Law Forum" (October 6, 2004)  
Honoring U.S. Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg*



*Women's Caucus Pre-Reception in the Lindy Boggs Room (October 6, 2004)  
Honoring U.S. Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

*Women's Caucus Reception Honoring U.S. Olympic Stars Julie Foudy and Brandi Chastain  
From the Gold Metal Winning U.S. Soccer Team (September 28, 2004)*



*Women's Caucus Briefing on Violence Against Women (March 11, 2004)*



*Women's Caucus Hearing on Sexual Assault in the Military (March 31, 2004)*



*Women's Caucus Press Conference Honoring "Rosie the Riveter" (May 20, 2004)*



*Women's Caucus Annual Wreath-Laying Ceremony Honoring Women in the Military (May 20, 2004)*



*Women's Caucus Hearing Supporting Title IX and Women & Girls in Sports (April 7, 2004)*



# Women's Caucus Initiatives on Priority Issues

## EDUCATION, ATHLETICS AND TITLE IX

### 1. Summary of Issues and Legislation

Members of the bipartisan Women's Caucus have been working to support fairness and equity in girls' and women's opportunities to participate in school-based athletics programs. Since 1972, federally funded schools have been required to provide equitable educational and athletic opportunities for both females and males. However, while female participation in sports has greatly increased, girls and women still remain underrepresented in elementary, high school and college athletics with regard to the availability of opportunities, resources and scholarship funding.

In order to help remedy these disparities, the Women's Caucus leadership introduced H.R. 4994, the "High School Athletics Accountability Act." This bill will help high schools improve opportunities for girls in sports, and thereby encourage the participation of both girls and boys in athletics. The High School Athletics Accountability Act requires that high schools report basic data on the number of female and male students in their athletic programs and the expenditures made for their sports teams. Currently high schools are not required to disclose any data on equity in sports, making it difficult for high schools and parents to ensure fairness in their athletic programs. Better information can help high schools and parents of schoolchildren foster fairness in athletic opportunities for girls and boys.

Additionally, Members of the Women's Caucus have defended Title IX against attempts to weaken its effectiveness and implementation. For example, Women's Caucus Members held a hearing in April 2003 on the importance of protecting Title IX, where we took testimony from female high school athletes and celebrities such as soccer star Mia Hamm and Olympic gymnast Dominique Dawes. This hearing took place in response to a controversial report by the Commission for Athletic Opportunity that recommended weakening Title IX regulations, triggering a national uproar against the recommendations and an outpouring of support for upholding the crucial non-discrimination provisions of Title IX. In light of this national support for Title IX, the Department of Education decided not to accept any controversial changes in the law or regulations.

In addition to addressing women and girls in sports, Women's Caucus Members have also drawn attention to the importance of encouraging girls in non-traditional fields such as science, math, engineering and technology; training for displaced homemakers and single parents; improving girls' self-esteem; and supporting basic education for girls in developing countries around the world.

## 2. Congressional Briefings and Events

- **November 19, 2004:** A briefing by the Family Initiative of Legal Momentum to present the results of a landmark long-term study by the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation on *the effects of high quality early child education and development on crime, education and the economy*.
- **September 28, 2004:** A Women’s Caucus **reception**, in conjunction with the Women & Politics Institute at American University, **honoring U.S. women Olympic athletes**, including U.S. soccer team gold medal winners Julie Foudy and Brandi Chastain.
- **September 1, 2004:** A **Women’s Caucus Staff Fun Event**, which brought staffers together to cheer along with the hometown crowd as the Mystics, Washington’s WNBA team, took on the Indiana Fever.
- **July 22, 2004:** The introduction of the “**High School Athletics Accountability Act,**” **H.R. 4994**, by the Women’s Caucus leadership, including 34 bipartisan original cosponsors, to require that elementary and secondary schools report information concerning gender equity in their athletics programs.
- **May 26, 2004:** A **briefing** and “**shadow day**” for **National Education for Women’s (NEW) Leadership DC Program** participants with staff of Women’s Caucus Members, in conjunction with the Women & Politics Institute.
- **March 10, 2004:** A **briefing** on the **Pathways Advancing Career Training Act (PACT), H.R. 3764**, to address access to training and job placement opportunities for displaced homemakers and single parents, as well as individuals pursuing nontraditional career paths.
- **September 17, 2003:** The introduction of **H. Res. 373**, a resolution by the Women’s Caucus leadership expressing disappointment at the disbanding of the **Women’s United Soccer Association (WUSA)** and supporting the re-establishment of the WUSA, allowing current and future women athletes to pursue their dreams of professional competition.
- **September 10, 2003:** A **briefing** entitled “**Engaging Girls in Science, Math, Engineering and Technology,**” in conjunction with the Girls Go Tech initiative of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., which promotes girls’ advancement in technology, math and science to bridge the growing gender divide in these fields.
- **July 9, 2003:** A **reception** in conjunction with Girls Inc. launching a campaign of public service announcements encouraging **self-esteem and positive self-image in girls**.
- **April 7, 2003:** A **hearing** to discuss the **future of Title IX**, the extraordinary law that has increased educational and athletic equity for women and girls, joined by soccer star

Mia Hamm, Olympic gymnast Dominique Dawes, and many other athletes and observers who came together in support of keeping Title IX intact.

- **March 27, 2003:** A **special order initiative on Title IX** to highlight its historic and continued importance in promoting women and girls in athletics.
- **March 11, 2003:** The introduction of **H. Res. 137**, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that proposed changes to **Title IX athletics policies** would contradict the spirit of athletic equality and gender parity and should not be implemented, and that Title IX should be kept intact.

### 3. Congressional Letters

- **July 6, 2004:** A letter to Senators Orrin Hatch and Patrick Leahy of the Senate Judiciary Committee expressing **concern about the nomination of Thomas B. Griffith** to the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit due to his outspoken opposition to Title IX.
- **June 22, 2004:** A letter to the House Appropriations Committee leadership asking for an increase in appropriations for **basic education in developing countries, especially for girls**.
- **June 17, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **High School Athletics Accountability Act**.
- **April 30, 2004:** A letter to Kenneth Marcus of the U.S. Department of Education expressing concern over proposed regulations concerning single-sex education, which **eliminate basic protections against sex discrimination**.
- **February 9, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **Fairness and Individual Rights Necessary to Ensure a Stronger Society: The Civil Rights Act of 2004** (FAIRNESS Act).
- **October 2003:** A Dear Colleague letter highlighting the Women's World Cup competition and urging Members to cosponsor H. Res. 373, expressing disappointment at the disbanding of the **Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA)** and supporting the re-establishment of the WUSA, allowing current and future women athletes to pursue their dreams of professional competition.
- **September 2003:** A Dear Colleague letter inviting people to attend a briefing hosted by the Girl Scouts of the USA on "**Girls Go Tech: Engaging Girls in Science, Math, Engineering and Technology**."

- **May 2003:** A letter to **Secretary of Education Rodney Paige** inviting him to speak with Members of Congress about his plans regarding future **implementation of Title IX** regulations.
- **May 14, 2003:** A letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies to outline **priority funding issues of interest to women** from the Women's Caucus Co-Chairs.
- **April 2003:** A Dear Colleague letter to encourage Members of Congress to welcome a child from The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington in their office on "***Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day.***"

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

### 1. Summary of Issues and Legislation

Women's Caucus Members have worked hard to draw attention to violations of basic human rights of women and children throughout the globe. During the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, we have worked on many significant issues affecting international women's human rights, such as female genital mutilation, child marriage, trafficking in women and girls, women and HIV/AIDS, maternal mortality, women and hunger, basic education for girls, and violence against women.

A bipartisan effort by the Women's Caucus leadership succeeded in tripling U.S. contributions for programs supporting women and girls overseas through the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). UNIFEM supports innovative programs promoting women's basic human rights and status throughout more than 100 countries. The agency works to reduce women's poverty, end violence against women, halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, and support women's roles in conflict prevention and reconstruction efforts. UNIFEM projects promote peace and stability on the ground in many areas of strategic interest to the U.S., such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the former Soviet Union. UNIFEM has also been working to stem the tide of violence against women throughout the world by administering the Trust Fund to Support Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women.

Women's Caucus Members have also highlighted the importance of supporting equality for women in Iraq and Afghanistan, two countries on the forefront of U.S. foreign policy during the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, through briefings, meetings, letters and legislation including "The Iraqi Women and Children's Liberation Act." This bill sought to provide Iraqi women with the tools needed to empower themselves with political participation, reduce maternal and infant mortality, advance girls education, reduce poverty, and help women sustain democracy for themselves and their children. Almost twice as many men as women in Iraq are literate; the maternal mortality rate is 35 times higher than in the United States; and one in eight children dies before the age of five because of inadequate health care. In Afghanistan, girls' schools have been violently attacked and burned down; threats have been made against women working and taking off the burqa and girls attending school; and there are numerous reports of violence against women, including sexual assault and rape. One of the best ways for the U.S. to ensure the legacy of democracy in Iraq and Afghanistan is by helping these countries invest in their women and children.

Women's Caucus Members have been actively involved in drawing attention to the murders of young women in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua, Mexico. Since 1993, women and girls in these cities have lived in fear of being the target of sexual assault and murder. Since that time, the bodies of over 370 girls and women have been found, while hundreds more remain missing. These women are usually kidnapped on their way to and from work (including American-owned *maquiladora* factories) or school, and are often raped and mutilated before being killed. Many of these crimes have been unresolved and until recently the Mexican

government was unresponsive. The Women's Caucus has taken an active role in speaking out against these murders by hosting several briefings and leading a Congressional Delegation to Ciudad Juárez. Women's Caucus Members have also introduced H. Res. 466, which formally condemns the abductions and murders of young women in Ciudad Juárez, supports the creation of a DNA database that would allow families to identify victims' remains, and opposes the use of torture as a means of investigation to these crimes.

## 2. Congressional Briefings and Events

- **October 22, 2004:** A briefing on the **murders of young women in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.**
- **October 13, 2004:** A briefing on **Violence Against Women in Colombia**, concerning a new report by Amnesty International.
- **October 12, 2004:** A briefing entitled **The Tragedy of Sudan and the Women who are Making a Difference.**
- **October 7, 2004:** A breakfast entitled **Three Women, Three Faiths, One Shared Vision**, to provide insight from three women from Jerusalem on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- **September 30, 2004:** A luncheon with Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifah Al-Thani, Emir of the **State of Qatar**, and Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned.
- **September 29, 2004:** A briefing on **Gender Audits in International Relief and Development**, hosted by InterAction and the Women's EDGE Coalition.
- **September 22, 2004:** A UNICEF/Inter-Parliamentary Union briefing on **violence against children** with a focus on sexual exploitation and trafficking.
- **September 10, 2004:** A briefing by Dr. Cheryl Bernard of the RAND Corporation on **women in Afghanistan.**
- **August 18, 2004:** A film screening of "**Time for School**," which depicts children in seven countries attending their first year of school. It highlights the importance of increasing funding for basic education for children in developing countries.
- **July 12-15, 2004:** Numerous events with a delegation of **women from Iraq**, in conjunction with the Iraqi Women's Caucus (shadow day, press conferences, roundtable discussion, reception, etc.).
- **June 24, 2004:** A film screening of "**Chasing Freedom**," which depicts an Afghan woman's attempt to seek political asylum in the United States.

- **June 23, 2004:** The introduction of “**The Iraqi Women and Children’s Liberation Act,**” **H.R. 4671**, cosponsored by the Women’s Caucus leadership and other Members of Congress, to authorize assistance for education and healthcare for women and children in Iraq during the reconstruction of Iraq and thereafter; to authorize assistance for the enhancement of political participation, economic empowerment, civil society, and personal security for women in Iraq; and to state the sense of Congress on the preservation and protection of the human rights of women and children in Iraq.
- **June 23, 2004:** An increase in funding for the **United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)** and for the **UNIFEM Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women**, which was supported by the Women’s Caucus leadership, in the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.
- **June 9, 2004:** A meeting with **Eveline Herfkens, Executive Coordinator for the UN Millennium Development Goals Campaign**, to discuss efforts toward the promotion of equal education for girls and boys in developing countries.
- **June 7, 2004:** A briefing on “**The Connections between Women’s Empowerment, Education, and Good Health,**” to recognize that women around the world continue to have restricted access to education and employment opportunities and limited abilities to exercise their rights. They continue to be the primary victims of gender-based violence.
- **May 19, 2004:** A reception and photography exhibit entitled “**Too Young to Wed: Child Marriage in Their Own Words,**” in conjunction with the International Coalition for Research on Women, highlighting the personal stories from girls and women whose lives have been affected by child marriage (25,000 child-brides under the age of 18 marry every day).
- **April 30, 2004:** A briefing with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) entitled “**Ending Violence Begins with Women: Approaches for Conflict and Peace,**” to share what UNIFEM has done internationally to promote women’s political participation and support global efforts at all levels to end violence against women.
- **April 23, 2004:** A briefing with **Manal Omar, the Country Director of Women for Women International-Iraq**, to discuss the current status of women in Iraq and Women for Women International’s work to ensure a prominent role for women in the reconstruction process.
- **April 21, 2004:** A briefing entitled “**The Trafficking of Women & Girls within the U.S.: What are the Challenges and Implications?,**” in conjunction with Women’s Policy Inc.
- **March 23, 2004:** A meeting with **Hilary White, a member of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) in Iraq** on the status of women in Iraq.

- **March 9, 2004:** A briefing entitled “**Forum on International Women’s Rights and Security: Iraq, Afghanistan and Ciudad Juárez , Mexico**” to address threats and challenges to women’s rights and security in different parts of the world.
- **March 8, 2004:** A briefing entitled: “**Women and Democracy - the Path to a Free and Equal Iraq**” in honor of International Women’s Day.
- **March 4, 2004:** A briefing entitled “**Meeting the Health Needs of Women in the Era of HIV/AIDS**” to examine the issues of family planning, maternal health and HIV/AIDS services.
- **February 25, 2004:** A meeting with Mexican human rights advocates seeking justice for the **murdered women of Ciudad Juárez & Chihuahua, Mexico**. Speakers discussed the problems of violence against women in the area, as well as an analysis of the investigation and prevention measures that have been established.
- **February 25, 2004:** A briefing with **Iraqi women**, and people who have been working with them, to draw attention to the challenges that Iraqi women are facing as a new constitution is drafted and a government is formed.
- **February 14, 2004:** Participation in **V-Day activities in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico** to protest impunity for the murders of women.
- **February 5, 2004:** A briefing entitled “**Female Genital Cutting – Marking the First Anniversary of Zero Tolerance Day: Has Zero Tolerance Translated into Zero Cutting?**”
- **December 3, 2003:** A briefing entitled “**Violence Against Women in Conflict Settings,**” in conjunction with Women’s Policy Inc.
- **November 21, 2003:** The **introduction of H.Res. 466**, condemning the murders of women in Ciudad Juárez, expressing condolences to the victim’s families, and encouraging continued U.S. involvement in putting an end to these murders.
- **October 11-13, 2003:** Participation in a **Congressional Delegation to Ciudad Juárez** to examine the murders of hundreds of women by meeting with family members, non-governmental organizations and government officials.
- **September 16, 2003:** A Members’ briefing on “**Women and Ending Hunger: The Inextricable Link,**” to address the more than 800 million people (13% of the world’s population) who are chronically undernourished.
- **May 9, 2003:** A briefing on **maternal mortality around the world** in conjunction with the Global Health Council.

### 3. Congressional Letters

- **October 22, 2004:** A letter to the Foreign Operations Appropriations conference committee, urging them to adopt the House funding levels of \$2 million for the **United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)** and \$1 million for the **UNIFEM Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women**.
- **July 7, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **New United States Global HIV Prevention Strategy to Address Women and Girls Act of 2004**, legislation that would revise our current HIV Prevention strategy to emphasize the needs of women and girls.
- **June 23, 2004:** A letter to the House Appropriations Committee asking for an increase in appropriations for the **United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and for the UNIFEM Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women**.
- **June 23, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **Iraqi Women and Children's Liberation Act, H.R. 4671**.
- **June 22, 2004:** A letter to the House Appropriations Committee leadership asking for an increase in appropriations for **basic education in developing countries, especially for girls**.
- **June 18, 2004:** A letter to **Mexican President Vicente Fox** expressing concern regarding the due process and human rights of a U.S. citizen being held in relation to a murder of a woman in Ciudad Juárez.
- **June 8, 2004:** A letter to the House Appropriations Committee leadership in support of the funding request for the **International Museum of Women**, which honors the history, contributions and achievements of women worldwide.
- **June 3, 2004:** A letter to President Bush expressing concern about reports of **rape of Iraqi women** by American personnel at Abu Ghraib prison, asserting that the U.S. should provide medical care and counseling to the victims as well as assist these women to escape the suffering levied by their culture's treatment of victims of sexual assault.
- **May 14, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter expressing concern about the negative impacts that the **Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA)** would have on women, particularly those who are poor.
- **May 14, 2004:** A letter expressing concern about the negative impacts that the **Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments** would have on the health of women, particularly victims of domestic violence.

- **May 11, 2004:** A letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft urging him to follow the recommendations submitted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and grant asylum to Ms. Rodi Alvarado Peña and working with DHS to adopt positive regulations to govern **gender asylum** cases in order to protect women and girls from domestic violence, trafficking, sexual slavery, rape and honor killings.
- **May 11, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor H. Res. 466, conveying the sympathy of the House of Representatives to the families of the young **women murdered in the Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua, Mexico**, and encouraging increased U.S. involvement in bringing an end to these crimes.
- **May 7, 2004:** A letter to the House Appropriations Committee and the leadership of seven relevant subcommittees to outline **priority funding issues of interest to women** from the Women's Caucus Co-Chairs.
- **April 1, 2004:** A letter to Alan Larson, Acting CEO of the **Millennium Challenge Corporation**, urging the inclusion of an indicator within the eligibility criteria reflecting each country's commitment to women.
- **April 2004:** A letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge and Undersecretary for Border & Transportation Secretary Asa Hutchison, urging them to give careful consideration to the case of **Maria Suarez, a legal immigrant facing deportation**, who was wrongly accused of murder, after having suffered slavery, torture, and repeated rape and abuse.
- **March 8, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **Women and Children in Armed Conflict Protection Act**.
- **March 9, 2004:** A letter to South African government officials commending the government's approval of anti-retroviral therapy as treatment for those infected with HIV/AIDS, and encouraging the government to follow through on its commitment to provide **post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to rape survivors** as the South African Cabinet had promised in April 2002. PEP is a highly effective way to prevent HIV infections in rape survivors, which is critical to the victims' physical and mental well-being, as well as a cost-effective way to help alleviate long term medical costs.
- **February 11, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor H. Con. Res. 196, recognizing that the **women of Iraq** have a critical role to play in the revival of their country.
- **January 29, 2004:** A letter to President George Bush expressing concern about Resolution 137 passed by the Iraqi Governing Council that would severely endanger **Iraqi women** and threaten their legal equality.

- **November 25, 2003:** A letter to the Honorable Robert B. Zoellick, U.S. Trade Representative, urging him to include a **section in the CAFTA employment analysis that focuses on women workers and how trade may provide different options for men and women** in the U.S. and Central American countries.
- **November 19, 2003:** A letter to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies, to reiterate support of funding for the Center for Women Policy Studies' **National Institute on State Policy on Trafficking of Women and Girls**.
- **November 7, 2003:** A letter to Secretary of State Colin Powell expressing concern over the string of violent **murders of young women** that has taken place over the last ten years in **Ciudad Juárez , Mexico**.
- **November 4, 2003:** A letter to U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft urging him to reconsider his office's decision to reject a request by counsel for **Ms. Rodi Alvarado Pena** to submit a brief in the Matter of R-A case.
- **October 29, 2003:** A letter to Hamid Karzai, President of the Afghan Interim Authority Government, to express **support for the inclusion of women's human rights in the Afghan Constitution**.
- **October 28, 2003:** A letter to Ambassador Robert Zoellick, U.S. Trade Representative, urging him to include a **section in the CAFTA employment analysis that focuses on women workers and how trade may provide different options for men and women** in the U.S. and in Central American countries.
- **July 2003:** A Dear Colleague letter highlighting a New York Times article on the plight of **Iraqi women** being raped and then killed or kicked out of their homes.
- **March 2003:** A letter to the Appropriations Committee **supporting a request to fund the International Museum of Women in San Francisco**, the first museum of international women's history in the United States, and the only museum dedicated exclusively to chronicling and honoring the lives of women worldwide.
- **March 2003:** A letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge regarding **the concerns of a regulation change for asylum to women fleeing domestic violence**. It urged him to keep current policy intact, which grants asylum protection to those women and girls who can satisfy the rigorous requirements of current asylum rules.
- **March 2003:** A letter to the House Judiciary Committee **requesting a mark-up of H.Con.Res.57**, supporting the goals of International Women's Day.
- **January 15, 2003:** A letter to President Bush highlighting the plight of **women in Afghanistan**.

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

### 1. Summary of Issues and Legislation

Since its inception, the Women's Caucus has focused on the elimination of violence against women and has supported programs to assist victims of violence. The level of violence against women in the United States and around the world remains significant, and Women's Caucus Members have urged Congress to commit more resources to help eliminate this problem and provide assistance to survivors. Nearly one-third of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives. Recent reports of assaults on women in the military and by male collage athletes on female students indicate that this problem is still rampant. Around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime.

As Co-Chairs of the Women's Caucus, we commemorated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act in 2004 by releasing a new Congressional Research Service report on the benefits brought about by this law as well as the problems that still need to be addressed. In conjunction with Lifetime TV for Women, the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues participated in the annual "Stop Violence Against Women" Week in March, including briefings, special orders, public service announcements and other initiatives to highlight the importance of bringing an end to violence against women.

Throughout the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, Women's Caucus has brought national attention to the issue of sexual assault and other aspects of violence against women in the military (see also the information highlighting "Women in the Military" in this report). The Women's Caucus also successfully advocated for U.S. funding for the global Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women, administered by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) -- the first time the U.S. has ever funded this program. Women Members have also addressed specific issues such as violence against women in conflict situations, gender-based asylum for women, the role of men in preventing violence against women, commercially and sexually exploited youth, gender-based violence and women's health, and transitional housing for victims of domestic violence.

### 2. Congressional Briefings and Events

- **October 22, 2004:** A briefing on the **murders of young women in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.**
- **October 14, 2004:** A forum on the first annual "It's Time to Talk Day," sponsored by Liz Claiborne and *Marie Claire*, which addressed **raising awareness of violence against women.**

- **September 23, 2004:** A Women’s Caucus meeting with Department of Defense officials on **sexual assault of women in the military** to follow-up on the Task Force Report on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault.
- **September 22, 2004:** A UNICEF/Inter-Parliamentary Union briefing on **violence against children** with a focus on sexual exploitation and trafficking.
- **September 16, 2004:** A staff briefing with Department of Defense officials on **sexual assault of women in the military**.
- **September 15, 2004:** A breakfast forum on the **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) – Past and Future** in celebration of the VAWA’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and in anticipation of the reauthorization of VAWA in 2005 (VAWA III).
- **June 23, 2004:** Passage of a Women’s Caucus leadership amendment tripling the amount of funding for the **United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)** and for the **UNIFEM Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women**, in the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.
- **May 13, 2004:** A briefing on “**Domestic Violence in the Armed Services: What is the Department of Defense Doing to End the Crisis?**” with John Molino, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Military, Community, and Family Policy, and Deborah Tucker, Co-Chair of the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence, who informed the Women’s Caucus about the DOD’s efforts at implementing recommendations to address violence against women in the military.
- **May 5, 2004:** A briefing entitled “**Men Taking a Stand to Prevent Violence Against Women & Children**” in conjunction with the Family Violence Prevention Fund.
- **April 30, 2004:** A briefing with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) entitled “**Ending Violence Begins with Women: Approaches for Conflict and Peace,**” to share what UNIFEM has done internationally to promote women’s political participation and support global efforts at all levels to end violence against women.
- **April 28, 2004:** A briefing in recognition of **Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month**.
- **March 8-12, 2004:** Numerous events during the Third Annual “**Stop Violence Against Women Week,**” in conjunction with Lifetime TV.
- **March 11, 2004:** A briefing on “**The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act,**” to launch a new CRS Report on this issue and to discuss many aspects of domestic abuse and sexual assault and the need for both men and women to join together to speak out and stop violence.

- **March 10, 2004:** An event entitled “**Champions for Change: Stop Violence Against Women Reception**” at the Kennedy Center hosted by Cokie Roberts and including Ashanti, Rosanna Arquette, Martina McBride and Vanessa Marcil.
- **March 10, 2004:** A briefing entitled “**Domestic Violence as a Health Care Issue,**” focusing on ways to improve the healthcare system’s response to domestic violence and discuss how health care providers can better address the needs of victims before violence becomes life threatening.
- **March 9, 2004:** Congressional reception to honor actor, activist and author **Victor Rivers for his work to end domestic violence.**
- **March 1, 2004:** A briefing to address the problem of **commercially sexually exploited youth** and to explore possible solutions.
- **December 3, 2003:** A briefing entitled “**Violence Against Women in Conflict Settings,**” in conjunction with Women’s Policy Inc.
- **November 4, 2003:** A letter to U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft urging him to reconsider his office’s decision to reject a request by counsel for **Ms. Rodi Alvarado Peña** to submit a brief in the *Matter of R-A case*.
- **October 29, 2003:** A briefing on “**Gender-Based Violence and Women’s Health,**” to follow up on the release of the World Health Organization’s report on violence as a public health issue and the strong statements made by Surgeon General Richard Carmona in support of the report and the U.S. taking a leading role in responding to the enormous health consequences of violence.
- **October 23, 2003:** A briefing entitled “**YWCA Week Without Violence,**” to discuss the Week Without Violence campaign which works to generate awareness of the need to fund effective initiatives against violence – from domestic violence and sexual abuse, to hate crimes and harassment.
- **April 30, 2003:** A briefing on **sexual assault** in conjunction with Lifetime TV.
- **March 6, 2003:** A briefing on **violence against women** including speakers such as singer Michael Bolton, actor Nancy McKeon, activists Kiersten Stewart and Juley Fulcher, and many others.
- **March 3-7, 2003:** Numerous events during the Second Annual “**Stop Violence Against Women Week,**” in conjunction with Lifetime TV.

### 3. Congressional Letters

- **July 15, 2004:** Letter to Dr. David Chu, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, urging the Department of Defense to implement the remaining **recommendations of the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence**, including the establishment of a toll-free domestic violence hotline to be available to women throughout the military services.
- **May 14, 2004:** A letter expressing concern about the negative impact that the **Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments** would have on the health of women, particularly victims of domestic violence.
- **May 11, 2004:** A letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft urging him to follow the recommendations submitted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and grant asylum to Ms. **Rodi Alvarado Peña** and with DHS to adopt positive regulations to govern **gender asylum** cases in order to protect women and girls from harm such as domestic violence, trafficking, sexual slavery, rape and honor killings.
- **May 11, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor H. Res. 466, conveying the sympathy of the House of Representatives to the families of the young **women murdered in the Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua, Mexico**, and encouraging increased U.S. involvement in bringing an end to these crimes.
- **May 7, 2004:** A letter to the House Appropriations Committee and the leadership of seven relevant subcommittees to outline **priority funding issues of interest to women** from the Women's Caucus Co-Chairs.
- **April 2, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **“One Strike and You're Out Act”, H.R. 1429**, which would provide housing authorities with the means to evict perpetrators of domestic violence while protecting the victims from being victimized twice.
- **April 2004:** A letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge and Undersecretary for Border & Transportation Secretary Asa Hutchison, urging them to give careful consideration to the case of **Maria Suarez, a legal immigrant facing deportation**, who was wrongly accused of murder, after having suffered slavery, torture, and repeated rape and abuse.
- **February 6, 2004:** A Dear Colleague urging Members to cosponsor the **Domestic Violence Prevention, Education and Awareness Act, H.R. 3425**.
- **January 23, 2004:** A letter to President George Bush requesting substantial funding in his budget for **transitional housing assistance to individuals who are fleeing from domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking**.

- **November 7, 2003:** A letter to Secretary of State Colin Powell expressing concern over the string of violent **murders of young women** that has taken place over the last ten years in **Ciudad Juárez , Mexico**.
- **October 31, 2003:** A Dear Colleague letter highlighting the importance of the **booklet recording the proceedings of a congressional briefing on violence against women** during the Second Annual “Stop Violence Against Women” Week in Washington.
- **October 27, 2003:** A Dear Colleague letter encouraging co-sponsorship of the **Domestic Violence Courts Assistance Act, H.R. 3424**.
- **June 2003:** A letter to the Appropriations Committee leadership requesting full funding for the **Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Child Victims of Domestic Violence, Stalking, or Sexual Assault program**.
- **May 14, 2003:** A letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies to outline **priority funding issues of interest to women** from the Women’s Caucus Co-Chairs.
- **March 2003:** A letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge regarding **the concerns of a regulation change for asylum to women fleeing domestic violence**. It urged him to keep current policy intact, which permits granting asylum protection to those women and girls who can satisfy the rigorous requirements of current asylum rules.
- **January 2003:** A letter to the House Appropriations Committee and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary **recommending \$65 million be allocated in the CJSJ Appropriations bill for the National Institute of Justice** to implement DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act, with \$50 million earmarked for the analysis of crime scene samples.

## WOMEN'S HEALTH

### 1. Summary of Issues and Legislation

The Women's Caucus in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress has spearheaded a wide variety of efforts to address women's health. For example, Caucus Members participated in activities such as a women's preventative health summit addressing smoking and obesity, an event launching the "Go Red for Women Initiative" to address women and heart disease in conjunction with the American Heart Association, a briefing on gender-based violence and women's health, a town hall meeting on women and diabetes, and many other initiatives.

For example, in December 2003 numerous Women's Caucus Members sent a bipartisan letter to the Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Mark McClellan about safety concerns regarding silicone-gel filled breast implants. The FDA ultimately decided against making silicone-gel filled breast implants available for non-therapeutic cosmetic plastic surgery due to these safety concerns.

### 2. Congressional Briefings and Events

- **July 22, 2004:** A briefing on "**Global HIV/AIDS: Bangkok and Beyond,**" with Kathleen Cravero, Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS, to discuss the XV International HIV/AIDS Conference.
- **May 13, 2004:** A briefing on "**Osteoporosis: Improving Your Community's Awareness and Prevention.**"
- **May 12, 2004:** A briefing entitled "**The Women's Preventive Health Summit**" in conjunction with Women's Policy Inc. and the American Legacy Foundation to discuss efforts to reduce poor health behaviors among women, such as tobacco use and obesity.
- **March 4, 2004:** A briefing entitled "**Meeting the Health Needs of Women in the Era of HIV/AIDS**" to examine the issues of family planning, maternal health and HIV/AIDS services.
- **February 25, 2004:** A briefing on **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)**. The discussion centered on the effects of FASD on women's and children's health and interaction with the educational and justice system, stressing the need for more prevention and treatment efforts.
- **February 25, 2004:** A press conference in support of H. Res. 506, recognizing **National Eating Disorders Awareness Week**.

- **February 17, 2004:** A briefing regarding the **impact of mercury on women and children's health**.
- **February 5, 2004:** A briefing entitled "**Female Genital Cutting – Marking the First Anniversary of Zero Tolerance Day: Has Zero Tolerance Translated into Zero Cutting?**"
- **February 5, 2004:** A briefing to launch the "**Go Red for Women Initiative,**" addressing women and heart disease, in conjunction with the American Heart Association.
- **October 29, 2003:** A briefing on "**Gender-Based Violence and Women's Health,**" to follow up on the recent release of the World Health Organization's report on violence as a public health issue and the strong statements made by Surgeon General Richard Carmona in support of the report and the U.S. taking a leading role in responding to the enormous health consequences of violence.
- **September 23, 2003:** A briefing highlighting the findings of the "**Women and Smoking Report Card**" in conjunction with the National Women's Law Center and the American Legacy Foundation.
- **September 9, 2003:** A briefing entitled "**Preventing Heart Disease in Women: An Agenda for Change,**" in conjunction with the Jacobs Institute for Women's Health.
- **July 23, 2003:** A Members briefing with FDA Commissioner Mark McClellan and Director of the Office on Women's Health Susan Wood on educating women about **menopause hormone therapy**.
- **July 21, 2003:** A briefing on safety concerns regarding **silicone-gel breast implants**.
- **July 16, 2003:** A briefing on the **prevention of smoking** among young women in conjunction with Women's Policy, Inc., the American Legacy Foundation and the Avon Foundation.
- **June 2003:** A briefing on **women's oral health** in conjunction with the Society for Women's Health Research.
- **May 20, 2003:** A town hall meeting on **diabetes and women** in conjunction with the Congressional Diabetes Caucus and the American Diabetes Association, as well as the Department of Health and Human Services and the Food and Drug Administration.
- **May 9, 2003:** A briefing on **maternal mortality around the world** in conjunction with the Global Health Council.
- **May 2, 2003:** A briefing on **women's bleeding disorders**, specifically on von Willebrand's disease, in conjunction with the National Hemophilia Foundation.

- **April 30, 2003:** A briefing on "**Fiscal Crisis in the States: What Does it Mean for Women's Health?**" addressing the state of women's health at the state level in light of Medicaid cuts in conjunction with the Kaiser Family Foundation and Women's Policy, Inc.
- **February 12, 2003:** The introduction of the **Environmental Health Research Act, H.R. 852**, to authorize the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to develop multidisciplinary research centers regarding women's health and disease prevention and conduct and coordinate a research program on hormone disruption.

### 3. Congressional Letters

- **July 7, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **New United States Global HIV Prevention Strategy to Address Women and Girls Act of 2004**, legislation that would revise our current HIV Prevention strategy to emphasize the needs of women and girls.
- **May 5, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **Health Security for All Americans Act** to ensure health care coverage for women.
- **May 7, 2004:** A letter to the House Appropriations Committee and the leadership of seven relevant subcommittees to outline **priority funding issues of interest to women** from the Women's Caucus Co-Chairs.
- **March 23, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **Women's Health Office Act, H.R. 1784**.
- **March 9, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **Osteoporosis Education and Prevention Act, H.R. 3803**.
- **March 9, 2004:** A letter to South African government officials commending the government's approval of anti-retroviral therapy as treatment for those infected with HIV/AIDS, and encouraging the government to follow through on its commitment to provide **post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to rape survivors** as the South African Cabinet had promised in April 2002. PEP is a highly effective way to prevent HIV infections in rape survivors, which is critical to the victims' physical and mental well-being, as well as a cost-effective way to help alleviate long term medical costs.
- **December 23, 2003:** A letter to the Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Mark McClellan about safety concerns regarding **silicone-gel filled breast implants**.
- **June 19, 2003:** A letter to the Appropriations Committee leadership supporting full funding of the **Healthy Start program**, a community-based program that works to reduce low birth weight and infant mortality.

- **May 14, 2003:** A letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies to outline **priority funding issues of interest to women** from the Women's Caucus Co-Chairs.

## WOMEN'S HISTORY AND HERITAGE

### 1. Summary of Issues and Legislation

The Women's Caucus leadership spearheaded H. Con. Res. 413, calling upon the American people to celebrate the accomplishments of the women who served our nation during World War II, who collectively became known as "Rosie the Riveter." Rosie the Riveter became the symbol for all of the women who entered the workforce, taking the place of the men who went away to war, to help ensure the United States victory in that conflict. This resolution passed unanimously, and to our knowledge it is the only piece of legislation that has ever garnered the support and co-sponsorship of every women Member in the U.S. House of Representatives.

During Women's History Month in March of each year, the Women's Caucus has supported numerous initiatives commemorating women's history, such as Dear Colleague letters, one-minute speeches, resolutions and events. The Women's Caucus also participated in a screening of "Iron-Jawed Angels," a moving HBO film depicting the story of the struggle to win full voting rights for women.

### 2. Congressional Briefings and Events

- **January 4, 2005:** The introduction of a resolution **honoring former Rep. Shirley Chisholm** for her service to the Nation and expressing condolences to her family, friends, and supporters on her death
- **November 10, 2004:** A briefing organized by the Women & Politics Institute on **Women and the Electoral Challenge: The Impact of Women on the 2004 Election.**
- **June 2, 2004:** A **resolution** sponsored by the Women's Caucus leadership honoring the contributions of the women, symbolized by "**Rosie the Riveter,**" who served on the home front during World War II, which passed unanimously in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- **May 20, 2004:** A **press conference** honoring the women who served as "**Rosie the Riveter,**" supporting the United States during World War II by entering the workforce held at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at the Arlington National Cemetery.
- **May 19, 2004:** A **congressional reception** honoring the women who served as "**Rosie the Riveter,**" supporting the United States during World War II by entering the workforce.

- **May 5, 2004:** The introduction of a **resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of Mary McGrory**, whose auspicious career earned her the title of “first lady of journalism.”
- **February 10, 2004:** A movie screening of “**Iron Jawed Angels**,” the story of the struggle to win full voting rights for women.
- **March 31, 2003:** The introduction of the **Votes for Women History Trail Act, H.R. 1524**, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a commemorative trail in connection with the Women's Rights National Historical Park to link properties that are historically and thematically associated with the struggle for women's suffrage.

### 3. Congressional Letters

- **October 1, 2004:** A sign-on letter supporting the Senate Interior Appropriations funding level for the **Sewall-Belmont House and Museum** commemorating women’s history and suffrage.
- **August 26, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging members to cosponsor **H.R. 1524, the Votes for Women History Trail Act**, to celebrate Women’s Equality Day and to commemorate the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granting women the right to vote.
- **July 19, 2004:** A letter to U.S. Navy Secretary Gordon R. England to request a Navy ship be named “**U.S.S. Rosie the Riveter**” to recognize the women who built ships during World War II.
- **May 6, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor H. Con. Res. 413, honoring the “**Rosie the Riveters**” who supported the United States during World War II by entering the workforce.
- **March 2003:** A series of Dear Colleague letters **honoring remarkable women** from the women Members’ districts for each day of March, Women’s History Month.
- **March 2003:** A letter to the Appropriations Committee **supporting a request to fund the International Museum of Women in San Francisco**, the first museum of international women’s history in the United States, and the only museum dedicated exclusively to chronicling and honoring the lives of women worldwide.

## WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

### 1. Summary of Issues and Legislation

The Women's Caucus has made significant progress in drawing national attention to the problem of sexual assault of women in the military. It has been a primary concern of the caucus during the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. In March 2004, the Women's Caucus leaders and many other women Members held a hearing on this issue, and subsequently presented a report containing the transcript of the hearing to U.S. Department of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Following the hearing, the U.S. House unanimously passed an amendment championed by the Women's Caucus leaders that would require the Pentagon to develop a comprehensive and uniform policy to prevent and respond to sexual assault of women in the military. The Women's Caucus has also focused on the issue of domestic violence within the U.S. military by working with the Department of Defense to find appropriate mechanisms to prevent and respond to this problem.

The Women's Caucus also supports women serving our nation in the military by honoring distinguished women officers serving in each of the five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces at a ceremony for them before Memorial Day each year.

### 2. Congressional Briefings and Events

- **December 9, 2004:** A Women's Caucus staff briefing with **Pentagon officials** on the development of Department of Defense policies to address **sexual assault in the military**.
- **September 23, 2004:** A Women's Caucus meeting with Department of Defense officials on **sexual assault of women in the military** to follow-up on the Task Force Report on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault.
- **September 16, 2004:** A staff briefing with Department of Defense officials on **sexual assault of women in the military**.
- **May 20, 2004:** The Annual Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues **Wreath Laying Ceremony Honoring Women in the Military**, held at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at the Arlington National Cemetery, commemorating outstanding veteran female non-commissioned officers from the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy.
- **May 19, 2004:** An **amendment** to the National Defense Authorization Act sponsored by the Women's Caucus leadership, requiring the Secretary of Defense to develop a **comprehensive policy for the Department of Defense on the prevention of and response to sexual assaults** involving members of the Armed Forces, was passed unanimously by the U.S. House of Representatives.

- **May 13, 2004:** A briefing on “**Domestic Violence in the Armed Services: What is the Department of Defense Doing to end the Crisis?**” with John Molino, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Military, Community, and Family Policy, and Deborah Tucker, Co-Chair of the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence, who informed the Women’s Caucus about the DOD’s efforts to implement the recommendations to address violence against women in the military.
- **April 28, 2004:** Women’s Caucus Members meeting with the former Rep. Tillie Fowler (R-FL), Chair of the **Panel to Review Sexual Misconduct Allegations at the United States Air Force Academy**.
- **March 31, 2004:** The Women’s Caucus hearing on **sexual assault of women in the military**, to investigate the numerous reports of sexual assault, the Department of Defense’s responses to and policies concerning this problem, and mechanisms that Congress can implement to help resolve this issue.
- **May 22, 2003:** The **Annual Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues Wreath Laying Ceremony Honoring Women in the Military**, held at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at the Arlington National Cemetery, commemorating outstanding veteran female non-commissioned officers from the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy.

### 3. Congressional Letters

- **January 10, 2005:** A letter to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld commending the Joint Task Force on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, led by Brigadier General K.C. McClain, on **issuing new Department of Defense policies addressing sexual assault in the military**.
- **July 15, 2004:** Letter to Dr. David Chu, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, urging the Department of Defense to implement the remaining **recommendations of the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence**, including the establishment of a toll-free domestic violence hotline to be available to women throughout the military services.
- **May 3, 2004:** A letter to the House Armed Services Committee leadership urging that the provisions of the **Uniform Code of Military Justice provision addressing sexual assault** be updated and improved.
- **April 20, 2004:** A letter to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld submitting the Women's Caucus **Report to the Department of Defense: Proceedings of Hearing on Sexual Assault in the Military**.

- **April 1, 2004:** A letter to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld requesting a meeting to review the steps the Department of Defense has taken to address the investigations of **sexual misconduct in the military**.
- **May 7, 2004:** A letter to the House Appropriations Committee and the leadership of seven relevant subcommittees to outline **priority funding issues of interest to women** from the Women's Caucus Co-Chairs.
- **February 5, 2004:** A letter to the House Armed Services Committee requesting a full committee hearing to examine the causes and related factors that perpetuate **sexual assault and abuse of women within the U.S. military**.
- **January 21, 2004:** A letter to Secretary Donald Rumsfeld expressing concern about the recent media reports suggesting a pattern of **mishandling sexual assault allegations** within the U.S. Armed Forces.
- **March 2003:** A letter to Secretary of the Air Force James Roche requesting a meeting with him to discuss the topic of **sexual assault in the Air Force Academy** and how to solve this problem.
- **March 2003:** A letter to the leadership of the House Armed Services Committee encouraging the committee to conduct a full investigation of **sexual assault of women at the U.S. Air Force Academy**.

# WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE, BUSINESS, AND THE ECONOMY

## 1. Summary of Issues and Legislation

Women's Caucus Members in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress have addressed numerous issues of concern to women in the workplace and women small business owners. For example, they have highlighted the law that Congress passed in 1996 setting a goal of 5% for women and minority-owned businesses in all government contracts. While few agencies meet or exceed their contracting goals, the Department of Defense (DOD) has historically been one of the worst offenders.

In May of 2003, women Members from both parties met with the DOD Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization to discuss the \$200 billion contract awarded to Lockheed Martin to build the Joint Strike Fighter. Of that \$200 billion dollar contract, only \$1.1 million in contracts had gone to women small business owners. At the meeting, women Members helped the Department develop a strategy for reaching out to and contracting with women-owned businesses (either through primes or subcontracts), and to encourage Lockheed Martin to subcontract out to women-owned businesses on the Joint Strike Fighter to meet or exceed the 5% goal. Members of the Women's Caucus participated in a follow-up meeting in July 2003 to discuss the progress that the Department was making to ensure equity in contracting opportunities. Additionally, the Members requested that representatives from Lockheed Martin and Pratt and Whitney discuss their plans to meet the congressionally mandated 5% contracting goal.

Members of the Women's Caucus have also highlighted other issues affecting working women throughout the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, such as the need for improved child care, preschool and after school care for children, diversity in the workforce, career training for displaced homemakers and single parents, the glass ceiling and the gender gap in wages, employment issues faced by women with disabilities, balancing work and family, supporting Women's Business Centers, and addressing gender disparities in the fields of math, science, engineering and technology.

## 2. Congressional Briefings and Events

- **October 6, 2004:** A Women's Caucus reception and forum on "Women in the Law" honoring U.S. Supreme Court Justices **Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sandra Day O'Connor**.
- **September 22, 2004:** A briefing on **Financial Literacy: The Road to Building Wealth for All Women** sponsored by Women's Policy, Inc.
- **July 15, 2004:** A briefing on "**Paths Toward a More Diverse Workforce and the Federal Role**" in conjunction with Women's Policy, Inc.

- **June 22, 2004:** A briefing called “**The Family Initiative: Better Child Care, Preschool and After School,**” to discuss programs to help parents balance work and family responsibilities by ensuring all children are ready for school and cared for in safe, secure and educationally sound programs.
- **March 14, 2004:** Presentations during the Public Policy Legislative Forum of Dialogue on Diversity, a nonprofit organization of **business and professional women** working to promote intercultural exchange and networking.
- **March 10, 2004:** A briefing on H.R. 3764, the **Pathways Advancing Career Training Act (PACT)**, to address access to training and job placement opportunities for displaced homemakers and single parents, as well as individuals pursuing nontraditional career paths.
- **January 21, 2004:** A program entitled “**2004: State of the American Woman,**” in conjunction with the Independent Women’s Forum and the National Federation of Democratic Women.
- **October 16, 2003:** A briefing on “**The Gender Gap in Wages and the Glass Ceiling: Identifying New Causes and New Solutions,**” by the authors of Women Don’t Ask: Negotiation and the Gender Divide.
- **October 14, 2003:** A briefing on **women with disabilities and employment** issues, in conjunction with Enable America.
- **October 8, 2003:** A briefing entitled “**Women, Work and Family Health: A Balancing Act,**” in conjunction with Women’s Policy Inc. and the Kaiser Family Foundation.
- **September 17, 2003:** A briefing entitled “**Employer-Provided Benefits: Challenges and Opportunities for the Future,**” in conjunction with Women’s Policy, Inc.
- **September 10, 2003:** A briefing entitled “**Engaging Girls in Science, Math, Engineering and Technology,**” in conjunction with the Girls Go Tech initiative of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., which promotes girls’ advancement in technology, math and science and bridges the growing gender divide in these fields.
- **July 16, 2003:** A follow-up Women’s Caucus Members meeting with Department of Defense representatives from the Joint Strike Fighter Program, the Defense Contract Management Agency and the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization to discuss implementation of the **5% requirement for women- and minority-owned businesses in all government contracts.**
- **June 18, 2003:** A briefing on **early education and childcare for working families** in conjunction with the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund.

- **May 2003:** A Women's Caucus Members meeting with the Department of Defense Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization to discuss the law setting a goal of **5% for women- and minority-owned businesses in all government contracts**, and in particular the \$200 billion contract awarded to Lockheed Martin to build the Joint Strike Fighter, of which only \$1.1 million in contracts had gone to women small business owners. At the meeting, women Members helped the Department develop a strategy for reaching out to and contracting with (either through primes or subcontracts) women-owned businesses, and to encourage Lockheed Martin to subcontract out to women-owned businesses on the Joint Strike Fighter to meet or exceed the 5% goal.

### 3. Congressional Letters

- **January 2005:** A letter asking the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics to reconsider its recent decision to discontinue **data collection on women workers** in the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program.
- **June 25, 2004:** A letter to the Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration expressing concern that many **Women's Business Centers** may be insufficiently funded or not funded at all.
- **May 7, 2004:** A letter to the House Appropriations Committee and the leadership of seven relevant subcommittees to outline **priority funding issues of interest to women** from the Women's Caucus Co-Chairs.
- **February 9, 2004:** A Dear Colleague urging Members to cosponsor the **Fairness and Individual Rights Necessary to Ensure a Stronger Society: The Civil Rights Act of 2004** (FAIRNESS Act).
- **January 29, 2004:** A Dear Colleague urging Members to cosponsor the **Family and Workplace Balancing Act**, H.R. 3780.
- **July 21, 2003:** A Dear Colleague letter transmitting a copy of a report entitled **Unjust Desserts: Financial Realities of Older Women**, which explains the reasons why older women are twice as likely to be poor as older men and provides helpful retirement planning tips for women of all ages.
- **May 1, 2003:** A follow-up letter to the Department of Defense Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) concerning the meeting to discuss procurement and **women-owned businesses**.
- **April 18, 2003:** A letter to the Department of Defense Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) concerning procurement and **women-owned businesses**.

- **May 14, 2003:** A letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies to outline **priority funding issues of interest to women** from the Women’s Caucus Co-Chairs.
- **May 2003:** A letter to Frank Ramos, Director Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Department of Defense, about the **5 percent goal of using women- and minority-owned businesses** for government contracts.
- **April 2003:** A Dear Colleague letter to encourage Members of Congress to welcome a child from The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington into their office on “**Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day.**”

## CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS AND EVENTS (Chronological)

During the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Women's Caucus leadership and individual Members have participated in a number of briefings and events related to various issues of importance to women. *(Please note that the briefings and events included on this list do not necessarily signify the support of the full Women's Caucus Membership, but are included for informational purposes.)*

- **January 4, 2005:** The introduction of a resolution **honoring former Rep. Shirley Chisholm** for her service to the Nation and expressing condolences to her family, friends, and supporters on her death
- **December 16, 2004:** A holiday reception hosted by Women's Policy, Inc.
- **December 9, 2004:** A Women's Caucus staff briefing with **Pentagon officials** on the development of Department of Defense policies to **address sexual assault in the military.**
- **November 19, 2004:** A briefing by the Family Initiative of Legal Momentum to present the results of a landmark long-term study by the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation on **the effects of high quality early child education and development on crime, education and the economy.**
- **November 10, 2004:** A briefing organized by the Women & Politics Institute on **Women and the Electoral Challenge: The Impact of Women on the 2004 Election.**
- **October 22, 2004:** A briefing on the **murders of young women in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.**
- **October 14, 2004:** A forum on the first annual **"It's Time to Talk Day,"** sponsored by Liz Claiborne and *Marie Claire*, which seeks to raise awareness of **violence against women.**
- **October 14, 2004:** A staff briefing on the reauthorization of the **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA III).**
- **October 13, 2004:** A briefing on **Violence Against Women in Colombia**, concerning a new report by Amnesty International.
- **October 12, 2004:** A briefing entitled **The Tragedy of Sudan and the Women who are Making a Difference.**

- **October 7, 2004:** A breakfast entitled **Three Women, Three Faiths, One Shared Vision**, to provide insight from three women from Jerusalem on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- **October 6, 2004:** A Women’s Caucus reception and forum on “Women in the Law” honoring U.S. Supreme Court Justices **Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sandra Day O’Connor**.
- **September 30, 2004:** A luncheon with Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifah Al-Thani, Emir of the **State of Qatar**, and Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned.
- **September 29, 2004:** A briefing on **Gender Audits in International Relief Development**, hosted by InterAction and the Women’s EDGE Coalition.
- **September 28, 2004:** A Women’s Caucus reception, in conjunction with the Women & Politics Institute at American University, **honoring U.S. women Olympic athletes**, including U.S. soccer team gold medal winners Julie Foudy and Brandi Chastain.
- **September 23, 2004:** A Women’s Caucus meeting with Department of Defense officials on **sexual assault of women in the military** to follow-up on the Task Force Report on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault.
- **September 22, 2004:** A briefing on **child marriage** sponsored by the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW).
- **September 22, 2004:** A UNICEF/Inter-Parliamentary Union briefing on **violence against children** with a focus on sexual exploitation and trafficking.
- **September 22, 2004:** A briefing on **Financial Literacy: The Road to Building Wealth for All Women** sponsored by Women’s Policy, Inc.
- **September 16, 2004:** A staff briefing with Department of Defense officials on **sexual assault of women in the military**.
- **September 15, 2004:** A breakfast forum on the **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) – Past and Future** in celebration of the VAWA’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and in anticipation of the reauthorization of VAWA in 2005 (VAWA III).
- **September 10, 2004:** A briefing by Dr. Cheryl Bernard of the RAND Corporation on **women in Afghanistan**.
- **September 1, 2004:** A **Women’s Caucus Staff Fun Event**, which brought staffers together to cheer along with the hometown crowd as the Mystics, Washington’s WNBA team, took on the Indiana Fever.

- **August 18, 2004:** A screening of “**Time for School,**” a movie depicting children in seven countries attending their first year of school, highlighting the importance of increasing funding for basic education for children in developing countries.
- **July 22, 2004:** The introduction of the “**High School Athletics Accountability Act**” by the Women’s Caucus leadership, including 34 bipartisan original cosponsors, to require that elementary and secondary schools report information concerning gender equity in their athletics programs.
- **July 22, 2004:** A briefing on “**Global HIV/AIDS: Bangkok and Beyond,**” with Kathleen Cravero, Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS, to discuss the XV International HIV/AIDS Conference.
- **July 15, 2004:** A briefing on “**Paths Toward a More Diverse Workforce and the Federal Role**” in conjunction with Women’s Policy, Inc.
- **July 12-15, 2004:** Numerous events with a delegation of **women from Iraq**, in conjunction with the Iraqi Women’s Caucus (shadow day, press conferences, roundtable discussion, reception, etc.).
- **June 24, 2004:** A screening of “**Chasing Freedom,**” a movie depicting an Afghan woman’s attempt to seek political asylum in the United States.
- **June 23, 2004:** An amendment to increase funding for the **United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)** and for the **UNIFEM Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women** was included in the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.
- **June 22, 2004:** A briefing called “**The Family Initiative: Better Child Care, Preschool and After School,**” to discuss programs to help parents balance work and family responsibilities by ensuring all children are ready for school and cared for in safe, secure and educationally sound programs.
- **June 9, 2004:** A meeting with **Eveline Herfkens, Executive Coordinator for the UN Millennium Development Goals Campaign,** to discuss efforts toward the promotion of equal education for girls and boys in developing countries.
- **June 7, 2004:** A briefing on “**The Connections between Women’s Empowerment, Education, and Good Health,**” to recognize that women around the world continue to have restricted access to education and employment opportunities and limited abilities to exercise their rights. They continue to be the primary victims of gender-based violence. The briefing discussed how the health, education, and empowerment of all women is of vital importance, not only for the individual woman, but also for her family and community.

- **June 2, 2004:** A **resolution** sponsored by the Women’s Caucus leadership honoring the contributions of the women, symbolized by “**Rosie the Riveter,**” who served on the homefront during World War II, which was passed unanimously by the U.S. House of Representatives.
- **May 26, 2004:** A **lunch briefing and “shadow day” for National Education for Women’s (NEW) Leadership DC Program** participants with staff of Women’s Caucus Members, in conjunction with the Women & Politics Institute.
- **May 20, 2004:** The **Annual Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues Wreath Laying Ceremony Honoring Women in the Military**, held at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at the Arlington National Cemetery, commemorating outstanding veteran female non-commissioned officers from the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy.
- **May 20, 2004:** A press conference honoring the “**Rosie the Riveters**” who supported the United States during World War II by entering the workforce held at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at the Arlington National Cemetery.
- **May 19, 2004:** An **amendment** to the National Defense Authorization Act sponsored by the Women’s Caucus leadership, requiring the Secretary of Defense to develop a **comprehensive policy for the Department of Defense to prevent and respond to sexual assaults** involving members of the Armed Forces, which was passed unanimously by the U.S. House of Representatives.
- **May 19, 2004:** A Congressional Reception honoring the “**Rosie the Riveters**” who supported the United States during World War II by entering the workforce.
- **May 19, 2004:** A reception and photography exhibit entitled “**Too Young to Wed: Child Marriage in Their Own Words,**” in conjunction with the International Coalition for Research on Women, highlighting the personal stories from girls and women whose lives have been affected by child marriage (25,000 child-brides under the age of 18 marry every day).
- **May 13, 2004:** A briefing on “**Domestic Violence in the Armed Services: What is the Department of Defense Doing to end the Crisis?**” with John Molino, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Military, Community, and Family Policy, and Deborah Tucker, Co-Chair of the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence, who informed the Women’s Caucus about the DOD’s progress in implementing recommendations to address violence against women in the military.
- **May 13, 2004:** A briefing on “**Osteoporosis: Improving Your Community’s Awareness and Prevention.**”

- **May 12, 2004:** A briefing entitled “**The Women’s Preventive Health Summit**” in conjunction with Women’s Policy Inc. and the American Legacy Foundation to discuss efforts to reduce poor health behaviors among women, such as tobacco use and obesity.
- **May 5, 2004:** The introduction of a resolution **honoring the life and accomplishments of Mary McGrory**, whose auspicious career earned her the title of “first lady of journalism.”
- **May 5, 2004:** A briefing entitled “**Men Taking a Stand to Prevent Violence Against Women & Children**” in conjunction with the Family Violence Prevention Fund.
- **April 30, 2004:** A briefing with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) entitled “**Ending Violence Begins with Women: Approaches for Conflict and Peace,**” to share what UNIFEM has done internationally to promote women’s political participation and support global efforts at all levels to end violence against women.
- **April 28, 2004:** Women’s Caucus Members meeting with the former Rep. Tillie Fowler (R-FL), Chair of the **Panel to Review Sexual Misconduct Allegations at the United States Air Force Academy.**
- **April 28, 2004:** A briefing in recognition of **Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.**
- **April 23, 2004:** A briefing with **Manal Omar, the Country Director of Women for Women International-Iraq**, to discuss the current status of women in Iraq and Women for Women International’s work to ensure a prominent role for women in the reconstruction process.
- **April 21, 2004:** A briefing entitled “**The Trafficking of Women & Girls within the U.S.: What are the Challenges and Implications?**” in conjunction with Women’s Policy Inc.
- **March 31, 2004:** A Women’s Caucus hearing on **sexual assault of women in the military**, to investigate reports of sexual assault, the Department of Defense’s responses to and policies concerning sexual assault, and mechanisms that Congress can implement to help resolve this issue.
- **March 30, 2004:** A dinner **honoring the women Members of Congress** in conjunction with Women’s Policy, Inc.
- **March 24, 2004:** The launch of a White House Project initiative entitled “**Vote, Run, Lead,**” which is designed to encourage young women to vote and help women move into political leadership positions.

- **March 23, 2004:** A meeting with **Hilary White, a member of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA)** in Iraq on the status of women in Iraq.
- **March 14, 2004:** Presentations during the Public Policy Legislative Forum of Dialogue on Diversity, a nonprofit organization of **business and professional women** working to promote intercultural exchange and networking.
- **March 8-12, 2004:** Numerous events during the Third Annual “**Stop Violence Against Women Week,**” in conjunction with Lifetime TV.
- **March 11, 2004:** A briefing on “**The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act,**” to launch a new CRS Report on this issue and to discuss many aspects of domestic abuse and sexual assault and the need for both men and women to join together to speak out and stop violence.
- **March 10, 2004:** An event entitled “**Champions for Change: Stop Violence Against Women Reception**” at the Kennedy Center hosted by Cokie Roberts and including Ashanti, Rosanna Arquette, Martina McBride and Vanessa Marcil.
- **March 10, 2004:** A briefing on H.R. 3764, the **Pathways Advancing Career Training Act (PACT)**, to address access to training and job placement opportunities for displaced homemakers and single parents, as well as individuals pursuing nontraditional career paths.
- **March 10, 2004:** A briefing entitled “**Domestic Violence as a Health Care Issue,**” focusing on ways to improve the healthcare system’s response to domestic violence and discuss how health care providers can better address the needs of victims before violence becomes life threatening.
- **March 9, 2004:** A briefing entitled “**Forum on International Women’s Rights and Security: Iraq, Afghanistan and Ciudad Juárez , Mexico**” to address threats and challenges to women’s rights and security in different parts of the world.
- **March 9, 2004:** Congressional reception to honor actor, activist and author **Victor Rivers for his work to end domestic violence.**
- **March 8, 2004:** A briefing entitled: “**Women and Democracy - the Path to a Free and Equal Iraq**” in honor of International Women’s Day.
- **March 4, 2004:** A briefing entitled “**Meeting the Health Needs of Women in the Era of HIV/AIDS**” to examine the issues of family planning, maternal health and HIV/AIDS services.
- **March 1, 2004:** A briefing to address the problem of **commercially sexually exploited youth** and to explore possible solutions.

- **February 25, 2004:** A meeting with Mexican human rights advocates seeking justice for the **murdered women of Ciudad Juárez & Chihuahua, Mexico**. Speakers discussed the problems of violence against women in the area, as well as an analysis of the investigation and prevention measures that have ensued.
- **February 25, 2004:** A briefing with **Iraqi women**, and people who have been working with them, to draw attention to the challenges that Iraqi women are facing as a new constitution is drafted and a government is formed.
- **February 25, 2004:** A briefing on **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)**. The discussion centered on the effects of FASD on women's and children's health and interaction with the educational and justice system, stressing the need for more prevention and treatment efforts.
- **February 25, 2004:** A press conference in support of H. Res. 506, recognizing **National Eating Disorders Awareness Week**.
- **February 17, 2004:** A briefing regarding the **impact of mercury on women and children's health**.
- **February 10, 2004:** A screening of "**Iron-Jawed Angels**," the story of the struggle to win full voting rights for women.
- **February 5, 2004:** A briefing entitled "**Female Genital Cutting – Marking the First Anniversary of Zero Tolerance Day: Has Zero Tolerance Translated into Zero Cutting?**"
- **February 5, 2004:** A briefing to launch the "**Go Red for Women Initiative**," addressing women and heart disease, in conjunction with the American Heart Association.
- **January 21, 2004:** A program entitled "**2004: State of the American Woman**," in conjunction with the Independent Women's Forum and the National Federation of Democratic Women.
- **December 3, 2003:** A briefing entitled "**Violence Against Women in Conflict Settings**," in conjunction with Women's Policy Inc.
- **November 30, 2003:** A reception for newly elected **women state legislators**, in conjunction with the Center for American Women and Politics.
- **October 29, 2003:** A briefing on "**Gender-Based Violence and Women's Health**," to follow up on the recent release of the World Health Organization's report on violence as a public health issue and the strong statements made by Surgeon General Richard Carmona in support of the report and the U.S. taking a leading role in responding to the enormous health consequences of violence.

- **October 23, 2003:** A briefing entitled “**YWCA Week Without Violence,**” to discuss the Week Without Violence campaign which works to generate awareness of the need to fund effective initiatives against violence – from domestic violence and sexual abuse, to hate crimes and harassment.
- **October 16, 2003:** A briefing on “**The Gender Gap in Wages and the Glass Ceiling: Identifying New Causes and New Solutions,**” by the authors of Women Don’t Ask: Negotiation and the Gender Divide.
- **October 14, 2003:** A briefing on **women with disabilities and employment** issues, in conjunction with Enable America.
- **October 8, 2003:** A briefing entitled “**Women, Work and Family Health: A Balancing Act,**” in conjunction with Women’s Policy Inc. and the Kaiser Family Foundation.
- **September 23, 2003:** A briefing highlighting the findings of the “**Women and Smoking Report Card**” in conjunction with the National Women’s Law Center and the American Legacy Foundation.
- **September 17, 2003:** A resolution introduced by the Women’s Caucus leadership expressing disappointment at the disbanding of the **Women’s United Soccer Association (WUSA)** and supporting the re-establishment of the WUSA, allowing current and future women athletes to pursue their dream of professional competition.
- **September 17, 2003:** A briefing entitled “**Employer-Provided Benefits: Challenges and Opportunities for the Future,**” in conjunction with Women’s Policy, Inc.
- **September 16, 2003:** A Members’ briefing on “**Women and Ending Hunger: The Inextricable Link,**” to address the more than 800 million people (13% of the world’s population) who are chronically undernourished.
- **September 10, 2003:** A briefing entitled “**Engaging Girls in Science, Math, Engineering and Technology,**” in conjunction with the Girls Go Tech initiative of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., which promotes girls’ advancement in technology, math and science to bridge the growing gender divide in these fields.
- **September 9, 2003:** A briefing entitled “**Preventing Heart Disease in Women: An Agenda for Change,**” in conjunction with the Jacobs Institute for Women’s Health.
- **July 23, 2003:** A Members briefing with FDA Commissioner Mark McClellan and Director of the Office on Women’s Health Susan Wood on educating women about **menopause hormone therapy.**
- **July 21, 2003:** A briefing on safety concerns regarding **silicone-gel breast implants.**

- **July 16, 2003:** A follow-up Women's Caucus Members meeting with Department of Defense representatives from the Joint Strike Fighter Program, the Defense Contract Management Agency and the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization to discuss implementation of the **5% requirement for women- and minority-owned businesses in all government contracts.**
- **July 16, 2003:** A briefing on the **prevention of smoking** among young women in conjunction with Women's Policy, Inc., the American Legacy Foundation and the Avon Foundation.
- **July 9, 2003:** A reception in conjunction with Girls Inc. launching a campaign of public service announcements encouraging **self-esteem and positive self-image in girls.**
- **June 24, 2003:** A reception **honoring women Members of Congress** in conjunction with Women in Government Relations.
- **June 18, 2003:** A briefing on **early education and childcare for working families** in conjunction with the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund.
- **June 2003:** A **meet and greet reception** for Women's Caucus Members in conjunction with Women in Government Relations.
- **May 22, 2003:** The **Annual Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues Wreath Laying Ceremony Honoring Women in the Military**, held at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at the Arlington National Cemetery, commemorating outstanding senior female non-commissioned officers from the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy.
- **May 20, 2003:** A town hall meeting on **diabetes and women** in conjunction with the Congressional Diabetes Caucus and the American Diabetes Association, as well as the Department of Health and Human Services and the Food and Drug Administration.
- **May 9, 2003:** A briefing on **maternal mortality around the world** in conjunction with the Global Health Council.
- **May 2, 2003:** A briefing on **women's bleeding disorders**, specifically on von Willebrand's disease, in conjunction with the National Hemophilia Foundation.
- **May 2003:** A Women's Caucus Members meeting with the Department of Defense Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization to discuss the law setting a goal of **5% for women- and minority-owned businesses in all government contracts**, and in particular the \$200 billion contract awarded to Lockheed Martin to build the Joint Strike Fighter, of which only \$1.1 million in contracts had gone to women small business owners. At the meeting, women Members helped the Department develop a strategy for reaching out to and contracting with (either through primes or subcontracts) women-

owned businesses, and to encourage Lockheed Martin to subcontract out to women-owned businesses on the Joint Strike Fighter to meet or exceed the 5% goal.

- **April 30, 2003:** A briefing on **sexual assault** in conjunction with Lifetime TV.
- **April 30, 2003:** A briefing on "**Fiscal Crisis in the States: What Does it Mean for Women's Health?**" addressing the state of women's health at the state level in light of Medicaid cuts in conjunction with the Kaiser Family Foundation and Women's Policy, Inc.
- **April 7, 2003:** A hearing in the Capitol to discuss the future of **Title IX**, the extraordinary law that has increased educational and athletic equity for women and girls, joined by soccer star Mia Hamm, Olympic gymnast Dominique Dawes, and many other athletes and observers who came together to support of keeping Title IX intact.
- **March 31, 2003:** The introduction of the **Votes for Women History Trail Act, H.R. 1524**, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a commemorative trail in connection with the Women's Rights National Historical Park to link properties that are historically and thematically associated with the struggle for women's suffrage.
- **March 27, 2003:** A special order initiative on **Title IX** to highlight its historic and continued importance in promoting women and girls in athletics.
- **March 26, 2003:** A reception on **women's health** in conjunction with the Society for Women's Health Research.
- **March 19, 2003:** A dinner **honoring the women Members of Congress** in conjunction with Women's Policy, Inc.
- **March 14, 2003:** A briefing on **women and housing/community development** in conjunction with the McAuley Institute on policies and partnerships that promote affordable, accessible housing for low-income women and their families.
- **March 11, 2003:** The introduction of H. Res. 137, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that proposed changes to **Title IX athletics policies** would contradict the spirit of athletic equality and gender parity and should not be implemented, and that Title IX should be kept intact.
- **March 6, 2003:** A briefing on **violence against women** including speakers such as singer Michael Bolton, actor Nancy McKeon, activists Kiersten Stewart and Juley Fulcher, and many others.
- **March 3-7, 2003:** Numerous events during the Second Annual "**Stop Violence Against Women Week,**" in conjunction with Lifetime TV.

- **March 5, 2003:** A reception to inaugurate the **new leadership** of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues.
- **February 13, 2003:** The introduction of the **Environmental Health Research Act**, H.R. 852, to authorize the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to develop multidisciplinary research centers regarding women's health and disease prevention and conduct and coordinate a research program on hormone disruption.
- **February 2003:** An event in support of maintaining the **gender equity provisions of Title IX**.

## CONGRESSIONAL LETTERS (Chronological)

The Women's Caucus leadership and various individual Members have spearheaded numerous Dear Colleague letters to other Members of Congress, as well as letters to other officials, addressing various issues of concern to women. (Please note that the letters included on this list do not necessarily signify the support of the full Women's Caucus Membership, but are included for informational purposes.)

- **January 2005:** A letter asking the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics to reconsider its recent decision to discontinue **data collection on women workers** in the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program.
- **January 10, 2005:** A letter to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld commending the Joint Task Force on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, led by Brigadier General K.C. McClain, **on issuing new Department of Defense policies addressing sexual assault in the military.**
- **October 22, 2004:** A letter to the Foreign Operations Appropriations conference committee, urging them to adopt the House funding levels of **\$2 million for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and \$1 million for the UNIFEM Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women.**
- **October 1, 2004:** A sign-on letter supporting the Senate Interior Appropriations funding level for the **Sewall-Belmont House and Museum** commemorating women's history and suffrage.
- **August 26, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging members to cosponsor **H.R. 1524, the Votes for Women History Trail Act**, to celebrate Women's Equality Day and to commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote.
- **July 19, 2004:** A letter to Navy Secretary Gordon R. England to request a U.S. Navy ship be named "U.S.S. Rosie the Riveter" to recognize the women who built ships during World War II.
- **July 15, 2004:** Letter to Dr. David Chu, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, **urging the Department of Defense to implement the remaining recommendations of the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence**, including the establishment of a toll-free domestic violence hotline to be available to women throughout the military services.
- **July 7, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **New United States Global HIV Prevention Strategy to Address Women and Girls Act of 2004**,

legislation that would revise our current HIV Prevention strategy to emphasize the needs of women and girls.

- **July 6, 2004:** A letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee **expressing concern about the nomination of Thomas B. Griffith to the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit due to his outspoken opposition to Title IX.**
- **June 25, 2004:** A letter to the Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration **expressing concern that many Women’s Business Centers may be insufficiently funded or not funded at all.**
- **June 23, 2004:** A letter to the House Appropriations Committee asking for an increase in appropriations for the **United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and for the UNIFEM Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women.**
- **June 23, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **Iraqi Women and Children’s Liberation Act, H.R. 4671.**
- **June 22, 2004:** A letter to the House Appropriations Committee leadership asking for an **increase in appropriations for basic education in developing countries, especially for girls.**
- **June 17, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **High School Athletics Accountability Act.**
- **June 8, 2004:** A letter to the House Appropriations Committee leadership in **support of the funding request for the International Museum of Women**, which honors the history, contributions and achievements of women worldwide.
- **June 3, 2004:** A letter to President Bush **expressing concern about reports of rape of Iraqi women by American personnel at Abu Ghraib prison**, asserting that the U.S. should provide medical care and counseling to the victims.
- **May 14, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter **expressing concern about the negative impacts that the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) would have on women**, particularly those who are poor.
- **May 14, 2004:** A letter expressing concern about the negative impacts that the **Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments would have on the health of women**, particularly victims of domestic violence.
- **May 11, 2004:** A letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft urging him to follow the recommendations submitted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) by granting asylum to Ms. Rodi Alvarado Peña and working with DHS to adopt positive regulations

to govern gender asylum **cases in order to protect women and girls from harm such as domestic violence, trafficking, sexual slavery, rape and honor killings.**

- **May 11, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor H. Res. 466, conveying the sympathy of the House of Representatives to the families of the young **women murdered in the Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua, Mexico**, and encouraging increased U.S. involvement in bringing an end to these crimes.
- **May 7, 2004:** A letter to the House Appropriations Committee and the leadership of seven relevant subcommittees to **outline priority funding issues of interest to women from the Women’s Caucus Co-Chairs.**
- **May 6, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor **H. Con. Res. 413, honoring the “Rosie the Riveters”** who supported the United States during World War II by entering the workforce.
- **May 5, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **Health Security for All Americans Act** to ensure health care coverage for women.
- **May 3, 2004:** A letter to the House Armed Services Committee leadership **urging that the provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice provision addressing sexual assault be updated and improved.**
- **April 30, 2004:** A letter to the U.S. Department of Education **expressing concern over proposed regulations concerning single-sex education**, which eliminate basic protections against sex discrimination.
- **April 20, 2004:** A letter to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld submitting the **Women’s Caucus Report to the Department of Defense: Proceedings of Hearing on Sexual Assault in the Military.**
- **April 2, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **“One Strike and You’re Out Act”, H.R. 1429**, which would provide housing authorities with the means to rid perpetrators of domestic violence while protecting the victims from being victimized twice.
- **April 1, 2004:** A letter to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld requesting a meeting to review the steps the Department of Defense has taken to address the investigations of **sexual misconduct in the military.**
- **April 1, 2004:** A letter to Alan Larson, Acting CEO of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, urging the inclusion of an **indicator within the eligibility criteria reflecting each country’s commitment to women.**
- **April 2004:** A letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge and Undersecretary for Border & Transportation Secretary Asa Hutchison, urging them to give careful

consideration to the case of Maria Suarez, a legal immigrant facing deportation, who was wrongly accused of murder and suffered slavery, torture, and repeated rape and abuse.

- **March 23, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **Women's Health Office Act, H.R. 1784**.
- **March 9, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **Osteoporosis Education and Prevention Act, H.R. 3803**.
- **March 8, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor the **Women and Children in Armed Conflict Protection Act**.
- **March 9, 2004:** A letter to South African government officials commending the government's approval of anti-retroviral therapy as treatment for those infected with HIV/AIDS, and encouraging the government **to follow through on its commitment to provide post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to rape survivors** as the South African Cabinet had promised in April 2002. PEP is a highly effective way to prevent HIV infections in rape survivors, which is critical to the victims' physical and mental well-being, as well as a cost-effective way to help alleviate long term medical costs.
- **February 11, 2004:** A Dear Colleague letter urging Members to cosponsor **H. Con. Res. 196, recognizing that the women of Iraq have a critical role to play in the revival of their country**.
- **February 9, 2004:** A Dear Colleague urging Members to cosponsor the Fairness and Individual Rights Necessary to Ensure a Stronger Society: **The Civil Rights Act of 2004 (FAIRNESS Act)**.
- **February 6, 2004:** A Dear Colleague urging Members to cosponsor the **Domestic Violence Prevention, Education and Awareness Act, H.R. 3425**.
- **February 5, 2004:** A letter to the House Armed Services Committee requesting a full committee hearing to examine the causes and related **factors that perpetuate sexual assault and abuse of women within the U.S. military**.
- **January 29, 2004:** A letter to President George Bush expressing concern about Resolution 137 passed by the Iraqi Governing Council that would severely endanger Iraqi women and threaten their legal equality.
- **January 29, 2004:** A Dear Colleague urging Members to cosponsor the Family and Workplace Balancing Act, H.R. 3780.
- **January 23, 2004:** A letter to President George Bush requesting funding in his budget request for transitional housing assistance to individuals who are fleeing from domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

- **January 21, 2004:** A letter to Secretary Donald Rumsfeld expressing concern about the recent media reports suggesting a pattern of mishandling sexual assault allegations within the U.S. Armed Forces.
- **December 23, 2003:** A letter to the Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Mark McClellan about safety concerns regarding silicone-gel filled breast implants.
- **November 25, 2003:** A letter to the Honorable Robert B. Zoellick, U.S. Trade Representative, urging him to include a section in the CAFTA employment analysis that focuses on women workers and how trade may provide different options for men and women in the U.S. and in Central American countries.
- **November 19, 2003:** A letter to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies, to reiterate support of funding for the Center for Women Policy Studies' National Institute on State Policy on Trafficking of Women and Girls.
- **November 7, 2003:** A letter to Secretary of State Colin Powell expressing concern over the string of **violent murders of young women** that has taken place over the last ten years in **Ciudad Juárez , Mexico**.
- **November 4, 2003:** A letter to U.S. Attorney General Ashcroft urging him to reconsider his office's decision to reject a request by counsel for **Ms. Rodi Alvarado Pena to submit a brief in the Matter of R-A case**.
- **October 31, 2003:** A Dear Colleague letter highlighting the importance of the booklet recording the proceedings of a congressional briefing on violence against women during the **"Second Annual Stop Violence Week in Washington."**
- **October 29, 2003:** A letter to Hamid Karzai, President of the Afghan Interim Authority Government, to express **support for the inclusion of women's human rights in the Afghan Constitution**.
- **October 28, 2003:** A letter to Ambassador Robert Zoellick, U.S. Trade Representative, urging him to include a section in the **CAFTA employment analysis that focuses on women workers** and how trade may provide different options for men and women in the U.S. and in Central American countries.
- **October 27, 2003:** A Dear Colleague letter encouraging co-sponsorship of the **Domestic Violence Courts Assistance Act, H.R. 3424**.
- **October 15, 2003:** A letter to the Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Mark McClellan about **safety concerns regarding silicone-gel filled breast implants**.
- **October 2003:** A Dear Colleague letter highlighting the Women's World Cup competition and urging Members to **cosponsor H. Res. 373, expressing disappointment**

**at the disbanding of the Women’s United Soccer Association (WUSA)** and supporting the re-establishment of the WUSA, allowing current and future women athletes to pursue their dream of professional competition.

- **September 2003:** A Dear Colleague letter inviting people to attend a briefing hosted by the Girl Scouts of the USA on “**Girls Go Tech: Engaging Girls in Science, Math, Engineering and Technology.**”
- **July 21, 2003:** A Dear Colleague letter transmitting a copy of a report entitled **Unjust Desserts: Financial Realities of Older Women**, which explains the reasons why older women are twice as likely to be poor as older men and provides helpful retirement planning tips for women of all ages.
- **July 2003:** A Dear Colleague letter highlighting a *New York Times* article on the **plight of Iraqi women** being mass-raped and then killed or kicked out of their homes.
- **June 19, 2003:** A letter to the Appropriations Committee leadership supporting full **funding of the Healthy Start program**, a community-based program that works to reduce low birth weight and infant mortality.
- **June 2003:** A letter to the Appropriations Committee leadership requesting full **funding for the Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Child Victims of Domestic Violence, Stalking, or Sexual Assault program.**
- **May 14, 2003:** A letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies to outline **priority funding issues of interest to women** from the Women’s Caucus Co-Chairs.
- **May 1, 2003:** A follow-up letter to the Department of Defense Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) concerning the meeting to discuss procurement and **women-owned businesses.**
- **May 2003:** A letter to Frank Ramos, Director Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Department of Defense, about the **5 percent goal of using women- and minority-owned businesses** for government contracts.
- **May 2003:** A letter of invitation to Secretary of Education Rodney Paige inviting him to speak with Members of Congress about his plans regarding future implementation of **Title IX regulations.**
- **April 18, 2003:** A letter to the Department of Defense Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) concerning procurement and **women-owned businesses.**

- **April 2003:** A Dear Colleague letter to encourage Members of Congress to welcome a child from The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington in to their office on **“Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day.”**
- **March 2003:** A letter to the Appropriations Committee **supporting a request to fund the International Museum of Women in San Francisco**, the first museum of international women’s history in the United States, and the only museum dedicated exclusively to chronicling and honoring the lives of women worldwide.
 

**March 2003:** A letter to Secretary of the Air Force James Roche **calling for a meeting with him to discuss the topic of sexual assault** at the U.S. Air Force Academy and how to solve this problem.
- **March 2003:** A letter to the leadership of the House Armed Services Committee encouraging the committee to conduct a **full investigation of sexual assault of women** at the U.S. Air Force Academy.
- **March 2003:** A series of Dear Colleague **letters honoring remarkable women from the women Members’ districts for each day of March**, Women’s History Month.
- **March 2003:** A letter to Secretary of State Powell **expressing concern about the State Department’s decision to reprogram \$34 million appropriated for UNFPA**, to support women’s health in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The letter suggests that the money be used to support its original purpose – international family planning, and that it also reach beyond those two countries.
- **March 2003:** A letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge regarding **the concerns of a regulation change for asylum to women fleeing domestic violence**. It urged him to keep current policy intact, which permits granting asylum protection to those women and girls who can satisfy the rigorous requirements of current asylum rules.
- **March 2003:** A letter to the House Judiciary Committee requesting a mark-up of H.Con.Res.57, **supporting the goals of International Women’s Day**.
- **January 15, 2003:** A letter to **President Bush highlighting the plight of women in Afghanistan**.
- **January 2003:** A letter to the House Appropriations Committee and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary **recommending \$65 million be allocated in the CJSJ Appropriations bill for the National Institute of Justice** to implement DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act, with \$50 million earmarked for the analysis of crime scene samples.