

February 5, 2007 - Senator Reid Joins Reps. Slaughter and DeGette to Introduce Prevention First Act

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 5, 2007

Senator Reid Joins Reps. Slaughter and DeGette in Introducing Prevention First Act
Legislation provides women with the tools they need to prevent unintended pregnancies

Washington, DC - Today, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) joined Rules Committee Chairwoman Louise M. Slaughter and Chief Deputy Whip Diana DeGette (D-CO) to introduce the Prevention First Act, legislation designed to increase access to both contraception and sex education, as well as help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies in the United States.

"There are few more divisive issues in America today than abortion, but there is an opportunity to find common ground if we are willing to join together and seize it," said Senator Reid. "I am pleased to join my colleagues in this bicameral effort to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and the resulting abortions in America today."

"I am proud to reintroduce this bill which serves as an innovative and comprehensive approach to protecting women's reproductive health, decreasing the spread of STDs, and reducing the number unintended pregnancies," said Congresswoman Slaughter. "What's more, if we want to reduce the number of abortions in this country, the methodology is clear - empower women to prevent unintended pregnancies through education and access to contraception. Prevention First will do just that by giving women the support and information they need to make individual decisions about their reproductive health."

"For years the Republican Leadership has used abortion as a wedge issue, but they are never willing to pass legislation to reduce unintended pregnancies." said Rep. DeGette. "Today I am proud to join my colleagues from across the spectrum of choice in introducing the Prevention First Act. By increasing access to contraception and providing realistic sex education we can make significant progress towards the goal we all share, preventing unintended pregnancies."

This legislation would take a number of steps to reduce unintended pregnancies including:

- Increase Funding for the National Family Planning Program (Title X).
- Expand Medicaid Family Planning Services.
- End Insurance Discrimination Against Women.
- Improve Awareness about Emergency Contraception (EC).
- Provide Compassionate Assistance for Rape Victims.
- Reduce Teen Pregnancy.
- Ensure that Federally -Funded Programs Provide Medically Accurate Information.

Research shows, and a majority of the public believes, that providing more and better access to family planning services is the most effective way to reduce the number unintended pregnancies. Higher levels of unintended pregnancies inevitably lead to higher levels of both unplanned births and abortions.

###

