

# From the President

Since the time we announced the Campaign to Save Family Planning, we have been mobilizing our staff, volunteers and members throughout the country. I wanted to update you on the battle to restore U.S. support for international family planning—the country’s most vital program for population stabilization.

I have had personal meetings with several key members of congress to explain the importance of population and international family planning and ask for their support.

In the House, we worked with Rep. Joseph Crowley (D) of New York to get an amendment attached to the State Department Authorization bill to increase UNFPA funding to \$50 million each of the next two years and to prevent President Bush from withholding the funds. The vote passed in committee 23-22.

In the Senate, we claimed a major victory when the Senate voted 53-43 to eliminate the global gag rule. One wire service report said, “In a major blow to President George W. Bush’s foreign aid policy, the U.S. Senate voted late Wednesday to repeal his ban on assistance to international family planning groups that fight for the availability of abortion.”

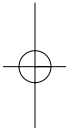
But the challenges remain. In mid-July, the whole House voted to eliminate UNFPA funding by a vote of 216-211. I think that this vote demonstrates why our efforts are so important. A switch of three votes would have made the difference. With this in mind, we are continuing to set up

meetings between Population Connection members and Representatives in congressional districts across the nation.

Just recently our members have met with Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL), Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Rep. Jennifer Dunn’s senior staff (R-WA), Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), Rep. James Langevin (D-RI), Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ), Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), and Rep. Joe Hoefel (D-PA). In addition to these, we are currently setting up meetings in 26 other congressional districts. Reports on these meetings can be found elsewhere in this issue of *the reporter*.

I recently sent you a letter outlining in more detail what we are doing in Washington and throughout the country to bring population and reproductive health issues to the top of the legislative agenda. This is the single most important population issue facing the world today. The work is vitally important and we promise that we will not rest until our government fulfills the promises it made to stabilize world population by assuring that everyone who wants access to family planning has that access.

Peter H. Kostmayer,  
*President*



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## Population Connection

Overpopulation threatens the quality of life for people everywhere. Population Connection is the national grassroots population organization that educates young people and advocates progressive action to stabilize world population at a level that can be sustained by Earth’s resources.

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